

97488
135

Vol 155, No 1
Week ending July 7, 1996

No. 155
No. 1-204-7
9-14-16, 18-25

The Washington Post Le Monde

David Hearst in Moscow warns Boris Yeltsin to watch his back after the election

Beware the might of the General

BORIS YELTSIN in all probability will be declared the winner of the second round of presidential elections this week. The number of eligible voters in Russia is growing, a strange phenomenon in a country where the mortality exceeds the birth rate. The latest estimate by an officially sponsored poll was 108 million voters, 4 million more than in December. Yeltsin will muster the right amount of votes, even if it is from dead souls.

But there are some long faces in the Kremlin. Having thrown everything into his campaign — the fear of the Gulag, pop groups, untold billions of rubles, and campaign visits the length and breadth of the continent — the birthday boy himself went missing, three days before the big event.

Yeltsin disappeared from public sight, cancelling his second official engagement in as many days, claiming to be recovering from a sore throat. Even a television appearance on Monday failed to stem rumours about his health. Meanwhile his two main opponents, Gennady Zyuganov, the communist leader, and Grigori Yavlinsky, leader of the liberal block Yabloko, are also low-key in their pronouncements. They too have remained in Moscow.

The only person who is in full voice is General Alexander Lebed. Lebed has been very active since he was turned by 11 million votes from being a humble two-star reserve general into a presidential security adviser. On his first day at work, he got rid of defence minister, General Pavel Grachev, on the third day, Yeltsin's trusted bodyguard General Alexander Korzhakov, his security chief General Mikhail Barsukov and the deputy prime minister Oleg Soskovets, and, on the eighth day, another seven generals.



"Together we'll win" . . . Muscovites pass a Yeltsin billboard urging them to vote for him
PHOTOGRAPH: BORIS YURCHENKO

On his 12th day, Lebed suggested Russia needed to restore the post of vice-president, which should go to someone with "strong, authoritative allocated constitutional powers". No prizes for guessing who this should be.

Yeltsin has two problems. The first is how to emerge from this election with a mandate clear enough to be able to crush the communist opposition, or at least help it to rattle itself to bits. Zyuganov's strongest argument for a coalition government after an election which he loses is that no president can rule a Russia which has been so clearly and geographically polarised by the vote, and by economic reforms.

The free market has arrived, but in patches. Around Moscow where construction is booming, the streets are lit up once again by the coloured

signs of new shops; there are small towns and villages where little has changed. Foreign investment in Russia is \$2.5 billion — half that of Hungary, and a 12th of that in China. The state debt on unpaid wages and salaries has this year grown from 18 to 23 trillion roubles, and the budget deficit is 9.6 per cent of GNP.

Few are paying their taxes. As the economics minister Yevgeny Yasin, said ruefully: "We would have just about squeezed through this year, if it had not been for the elections." Russia's factories desperately need to start working again, but the state is virtually bankrupt.

The first round of the vote showed this polarisation graphically. There were 25 regions where Yeltsin got more votes than the

Karadzic thumbs his nose at West

Julian Borger in Pale

THE SERB Democratic Party (SDS), which controls the Serb-held half of Bosnia, was huddled behind closed doors on Monday picking candidates for September's elections. The head of the selection committee — appointed unanimously last week — was Radovan Karadzic.

There could be no clearer demonstration of how the international community's failure to lever the Bosnian Serb leader out of power is casting a shadow over the prospects for long-term peace in the Balkans.

A source in the Serb stronghold of Pale said Mr Karadzic would use the vetting procedure to filter out moderates, concentrated in the western city of Banja Luka.

"Up to now, you've been hearing different things from Pale and Banja Luka — the new party lists will bring things more into line," the source said on condition of anonymity, which is the only way Bosnian Serb dissidents talk these days.

A brief flowering of independent thinking in Banja Luka in May has since been stifled; now only hard-line separatists are likely to find a place on the party lists. And given the SDS dominance of Bosnian Serb politics, elections are increasingly likely to deepen Bosnia's partition.

Claims over the weekend by the international community's representative, Carl Bildt, that Mr Karadzic had stepped down were exposed as nonsense by the Serb separatist's open display of power. Mr Karadzic's deputy, Biljana Plavcic, said he had only delegated his functions to her temporarily to concentrate on the elections.

Mr Karadzic offered further embarrassment to Mr Bildt on Monday by appearing on television to castigate his enemies. "The international community is pressuring me not only to resign but not to engage in party business," Mr Karadzic said in a taped broadcast of remarks he made to the SDS executive committee. "Their opponent therefore is not Radovan Karadzic, their opponent is the Serb Democratic Party. Their opponent is the Serb people."

Mr Karadzic's flexing of political muscle has also exposed Nato's limitations. The Nato-led peacekeeping force, I-For, said last month it had increased its patrols in Pale to cramp Mr Karadzic's style.

In theory, I-For troops have the authority to arrest war criminals such as Mr Karadzic if they meet them in the normal course of their duties. But there was little sign of I-For in the village on Monday, and recent press surveys have found that few of the 60,000-strong force would recognise the Serb leader if he shook them by the hand.

Officials in Mr Bildt's office maintained that his diplomacy had sown confusion in Bosnian Serb ranks, but on Monday it was the various organs of the international community that looked in disarray.

Mr Bildt's deputy, Michael Steiner, issued a challenge to his own putative employers, the major powers, to make good a threat of sanctions made at the G7 summit last week.

He conceded that Mr Bildt had the power to trigger sanctions on his own — and that he was due to consider his next move on returning to Sarajevo from Stockholm this week — but insisted that "whatever is done has the full support of the international community".

His remarks recalled the days of the United Nations' mission in Bosnia (Unprofor) from 1992-95, which was reduced by timidity and lack of international consensus to near-paralysis in its dealings with the Serbs. "There is a danger of going through 'Unproforisation' again," said a veteran UN aid official. "After all, it's more or less the same governments involved."

Mostar election, page 3
Comment, page 12

Saudi blast kills 3
US servicemen

FBI man paints 6
White House black

Crime reporter 11
shot dead in Dublin

G7 nations 'fall' 13
the world's poor

Throwing the book 24
at the internet

Austria	AS30	Malta	45c
Belgium	BF75	Netherlands	G 4.75
Denmark	DK10	Norway	NK 10
Finland	FM 10	Portugal	ES00
France	FF 12	Saudi Arabia	SF 5.50
Germany	DM 4	Spain	P 300
Greece	DR 400	Sweden	SK 10
Italy	L 5.000	Switzerland	SF 3.30

Arizona militia group arrested in 'bomb plot'

TWELVE members of an anti-government group that called itself the "Viper Militia" were arrested this week and charged with plotting for more than two years to blow up government buildings, Luna Skyrn reports from Phoenix.

Members of the Arizona group held training exercises in the desert in which they made and detonated ammonium nitrate bombs and rockets, according to the indictment in Phoenix.

At a news conference in Washington, the US attorney general, Janet Reno, said the men plotted to use explosives to destroy buildings housing the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, the FBI, the Internal Revenue Service, the Immigration and Naturalisation Service, the Secret Service, the Phoenix Police Department and the Arizona National Guard.

Anti-government paramilitary groups gained widespread attention in the United States following the deadly bombing of a federal office building in Oklahoma City last year. The defendants in that bombing are former Army colleagues who have been linked to militia groups. Ammonium nitrate was used in the Oklahoma bomb, but there was no indication of any connection between that bombing and the Arizona case. Authorities made the arrests

on Monday, cordoning off a half-block area in the working-class suburb of Peoria where two men charged in the indictment, Randy Lynne Nelson and Dean Carl Pleasant, shared a house. A next-door neighbor, Dennis Dennison, said the two had expressed anger at the government's handling of the standoff near Waco, Texas, and at Ruby Ridge, Idaho, but said he wouldn't describe them as anti-government. "I think they're like the rest of us, they get frustrated about legislation that restricts gun use," he said. — AP



2 LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Labour brains need to show their brawn

ERIC HOBSBAWM is right to urge intellectuals to take part in the development of principles and policies for a future Labour government (If the truth be told, June 30). He is mistaken, however, in suggesting that there is "a wide gap" separating the Labour party from "intellectuals of the left". The overwhelming response to the setting up of Nexus, a network of intellectuals of the centre-left, has demonstrated how keen many academics and policy experts are to contribute to the emerging agenda of New Labour.

Hobsbawm reprimands the Labour party for being concerned more about its electoral chances than its intellectual foundations. But the intellectual moorings of the centre-left are themselves in need of clarification and defence. It is unacceptable for intellectuals to sit back and wait for the party to stumble upon policies that they may or may not endorse.

house organ which kept members up to date and gave them a forum on which to debate issues (Labour Weekly); a magazine aimed at in-depth analysis and debate (New Socialist) and an organ enabling the younger members to exchange news and views (Labour Youth). All three have been closed down by the party bureaucracy to be replaced by the bland leadership magazine called Labour Party News. This has had a devastating effect on the intellectual quality of debate within the party.

The party leadership must realise that informed political debate is neither an optional extra nor the harbingers of disaster. It has everything to gain from enabling such a debate, and providing the means of communication which will enable it to reach the widest possible audience.

ARE there two Eric Hobsbawms? One argues in your pages that "left intellectuals" who do not want to be "paleolithic sectarian survivors" must accept the basic contours of the "neo-revisionist" policies pursued by Tony Blair, aiming "to regulate and socialise the wealth-creating... dynamism of capitalism, not replace it".

"replacing capitalism", even if this does lead to our being denounced as "paleolithic sectarian survivors".
Chris Harman,
London

THANKS to Eric Hobsbawm for such a cogent article on the dilemma that so many of us on the left face in responding to the grinding inevitability of New Labour. It helps to restore a sense of purpose and self-esteem.

UN's man of the moment

AN INTRIGUING connection can be made between the recent news reports concerning the United Nations standoff involving its weapons inspectors in Iraq and the debate over selecting the next UN secretary-general.

Discussion is made impossible by tabloid dementia.
Robert Chambers,
Frankfurt, Germany

THIS distasteful xenophobia is not confined to reporting of football. There is no pretence of balance in much of what is written on matters of national importance concerning the EU on financial, political or policy matters. It runs counter to the national interest, having implications for law and order, international business, and the standing of this nation's institutions in the eyes of the international community.

Ask any anglophile what he/she admires about the British: love of fair play, honesty, tolerance, love of learning. How hollow this will seem to any foreigner reading our tabloid press.

THE Football Supporters' Association, formed in 1985 after the events of Heysel, has worked tirelessly towards the aim of friendship through football, and in the fight against racism and hooliganism in the game.

Briefly

ALEX BRUMMER writes (There is life after downsizing, June 2) that the experience of the 1990s suggests that economies such as Britain and the US, where companies have ruthlessly pursued downsizing, have increased their competitiveness.

THE DECLINE in alcohol consumption detailed in Jonathan Freedland's report (Battle of bottle breaks out, June 9) misses one critical point. The US is a nation of people who love few things more than driving their cars.

THE MOVE by the French National Assembly to offer free public transport on days when pollution reaches danger levels (Free ride to beat pollution, June 23) is one that many large cities may soon have to copy.

Concern about tourism

CATHERINE BENNETT was so incensed when she wrote about tourism (Why the right people choose to stay at home, June 23) that she forgot to state plainly the three beliefs implicit in her piece:

"WITH whom should John Major deal?" you ask. "With Gerry Adams?" Yes, of course, with whom else? You don't make peace by talking to your friends; you must be willing to talk with your enemies.

Casualties in the football wars

AS A British citizen resident in Germany for five years, and quite used to German incomprehension as to British concerns on the future of the European Union, it is increasingly clear to me that German opinion links the mindless stupidity of the British tabloids, or football hooligans, and British opposition to European federalism in one package.

In Brief

LOCAL authorities cannot withdraw community care services from the elderly and disabled because of cash shortages, the Court of Appeal ruled.

A REPORT on judicial appointments in England and Wales by a Commons select committee shows that four out of five judges went to both public schools and Oxbridge — and that the proportion is rising.

ONE in eight women police officers in South Yorkshire is subjected to unwelcome physical or verbal advances, according to a report by the Police Federation and trade unions.

A SCOTTISH border health authority defended its decision to advise a doctor who contracted HIV from a needle injury in Africa three years ago, to continue working while keeping his condition a secret.

AN ANONYMOUS businessman has put up a £500,000 reward for the safe return of Ben Needham, the child who went missing on the Greek island of Kos five years ago.

SEVEN people were arrested in dawn raids by police and social workers investigating a child sex ring believed to have been operating in Cornwall.

THE Home Secretary's powers to decide how long prisoners serving mandatory life sentences for murder should stay in jail are "unfair, unnecessary and anachronistic", the law reform group Justice declared.

THE police stopped and searched 690,300 people last year. The number of such street searches has risen more than sixfold since the power was given to police in the 1984 Police and Criminal Evidence Act.

NIGERIAN pro-democracy activist Abiogun Igbolindu, who has been held in a detention centre since he arrived seeking political asylum in June last year, has been given "exceptional leave" by the Home Office to stay in Britain for 12 months, when his case will be reviewed.

THE national firearms amnesty introduced after the Dublin massacre yielded less than a third of the weapons handed in after the Hungerford tragedy in 1988.

THE veteran entertainer Alfred Marks has died of lung cancer aged 75.

Row over Blair's devolution 'U-turn'

Michael White
LOCAL authorities cannot withdraw community care services from the elderly and disabled because of cash shortages, the Court of Appeal ruled.

THE Labour leadership's decision to submit its plans for Welsh and Scottish assemblies last week convulsed the ranks of Labour MPs at Westminster and brought both anger and scorn down on Tony Blair's head from his political enemies.

Most Labour MPs and some frontbenchers were caught napping by the news and voiced anger at the lack of consultation. Anti-devolution MPs, some convinced that the concession may kill off devolution, were notably happier than supporters.

The plan for parallel referendums in Scotland and Wales before legislation is enacted in 1997-98 — unlike Labour's abortive referendums in 1979 — is officially intended to "entrench" the two assemblies from the threat of abolition by a subsequent Tory government.

Mr Blair even insisted the vote on the Scottish assembly's tax-raising powers — the second question he also intends to submit for popular approval — will not be voted down because of "tariff tax" jibes from Mr Forsyth.

At Edinburgh University, Mr Blair insisted his revised package, worked on in secret for months by key allies, was a "not if, but how" blueprint. It was designed to make devolution a reality and destroy the scurrilous and dishonest campaign against it by John Major's ministers.

Mr Blair even insisted the vote on the Scottish assembly's tax-raising powers — the second question he also intends to submit for popular approval — will not be voted down because of "tariff tax" jibes from Mr Forsyth.

Mr McAllison and his allies fear voters are being sent a clear signal to vote No to taxing powers they consider vital to the assembly's success. Though he pledged himself to work hard for a Labour government — and Mr Blair said he still hoped to see him in his ministerial team — the pro-devolutionist MP argued the party had "lost control of our own policy".

Not only was the tax-raising power central to the assembly package agreed with other parties in the six-year Scottish Constitutional Convention, the decision to grant a two-question referendum had been imposed on the Labour party without consultation. It would lead to demands for more questions to be added, he predicted.

At Edinburgh University, Mr Blair insisted his revised package, worked on in secret for months by key allies, was a "not if, but how" blueprint. It was designed to make devolution a reality and destroy the scurrilous and dishonest campaign against it by John Major's ministers.

Mr Blair even insisted the vote on the Scottish assembly's tax-raising powers — the second question he also intends to submit for popular approval — will not be voted down because of "tariff tax" jibes from Mr Forsyth.

Road to devolution

Labour wins election. Within weeks publishes details of proposed Scottish Parliament and Welsh Assembly.
Twin referendums in Scotland and Wales.
Scotland: Do you back a Scottish parliament? Should it have tax-raising powers?
Wales: Do you back a Welsh Assembly?
Yes! Do you back a Welsh Assembly? Yes No
Yes! Do you back a Welsh Assembly? Yes No
Yes! Do you back a Welsh Assembly? Yes No

Mr Blair even insisted the vote on the Scottish assembly's tax-raising powers — the second question he also intends to submit for popular approval — will not be voted down because of "tariff tax" jibes from Mr Forsyth.

Tory MPs attack Portillo in armed forces housing row

Guardian Reporters
JOHN Major last week vigorously defended plans by Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, to sell off armed forces married quarters, in the face of objections from 65 Tory backbenchers who have demanded that MPs be allowed a vote on the decision.

Mr Major insisted in the Commons that much of the opposition to the sale of 58,000 houses was based on "misunderstandings". He denied claims that rents would rise sharply. The sell-off will raise between £1.5 billion and £2 billion.

Mr Evans and the author of the motion objecting to the sale, Julian Brazier, MP for Canterbury, are strong supporters of Mr Portillo's "exceptional leave" by the Home Office to stay in Britain for 12 months, when his case will be reviewed.

Mr Evans and the author of the motion objecting to the sale, Julian Brazier, MP for Canterbury, are strong supporters of Mr Portillo's "exceptional leave" by the Home Office to stay in Britain for 12 months, when his case will be reviewed.

Mr Evans and the author of the motion objecting to the sale, Julian Brazier, MP for Canterbury, are strong supporters of Mr Portillo's "exceptional leave" by the Home Office to stay in Britain for 12 months, when his case will be reviewed.

Mr Evans and the author of the motion objecting to the sale, Julian Brazier, MP for Canterbury, are strong supporters of Mr Portillo's "exceptional leave" by the Home Office to stay in Britain for 12 months, when his case will be reviewed.

Lords vote to give asylum seekers three days' grace

Alan Travis
THE House of Lords this week blew a hole in the Government's asylum legislation as bishops warned that the withdrawal of social security benefits from most asylum seekers cast a shadow over Britain's reputation as "a compassionate and Christian country".

Peers voted by 158 votes to 155 to change a key provision of the bill so as to give asylum seekers three days' grace — instead of a single day — to claim refugee status on arrival without losing access to state help while a decision is made.

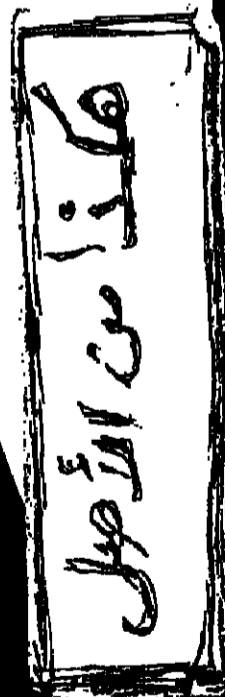
The defeat came as the Government pushed through emergency amendments to the Asylum Bill by 153 to 140 votes to overturn the reverse it suffered in the Court of Appeal last month. The judges ruled that not only was the decision to withdraw state benefits from most asylum seekers illegal in the way it was done, but also said it should not be tolerated in a civilised society.

In a further blow, the Government was later defeated again when peers voted 90 to 76, a majority of 14, to exempt domestic workers who had been abused or exploited from employment regulations affecting illegal immigrants.

Monday's vote is expected to affect a significant number of asylum seekers because Refugee Council figures show that 60 per cent lodge a claim within two days. Many genuine refugees did not claim on the day of arrival because of ignorance, confusion and disorientation.

The move was backed by three bishops and the former Master of the Rolls, Lord Donaldson. The Bishop of Lincoln said the legislation in its original form "cast a dark shadow over our claim to be a compassionate and Christian country".

The Guardian Weekly
'A window on the wider world'
Subscription rates:
United Kingdom £24.00 £47.00
Europe (inc. Eire) £26.50 £52.00
USA, Canada £28.00 £55.00
Rest of the World £30.50 £60.00
To: The Guardian Weekly, 161 Dancergate, Manchester M20 2FQ, England
Please send me The Guardian Weekly for: 6 months 1 year inc.
Name: _____
Address: _____
Card expiry date _____
Credit Card with appropriate details to: 44 (0) 161 876 8262
E-mail enquiries to: gwsubs@guardian.co.uk



Airline deal may leave Virgin high and dry

Joanna Walters reports from Washington on the transatlantic threat facing Richard Branson

VIRGIN Atlantic Airways is at a turning point. The airline has a larger-than-life image, mainly because of the publicity-seeking instincts of chairman Richard Branson. But its profits have always been fragile. And Virgin now risks being wiped off the map if British Airways and American Airlines' proposed partnership goes ahead.

The concerns are not just a product of the Virgin publicity machine. A source at Delta Airlines believes that if BA and AA are allowed to cooperate, its company will cease to make money flying between the UK and the US.

Transatlantic routes are only a fraction of Delta's business, but they are Virgin's lifeblood, and Branson does not want to spend the rest of his life bankrolling the airline from other parts of the Virgin group or his personal wealth.

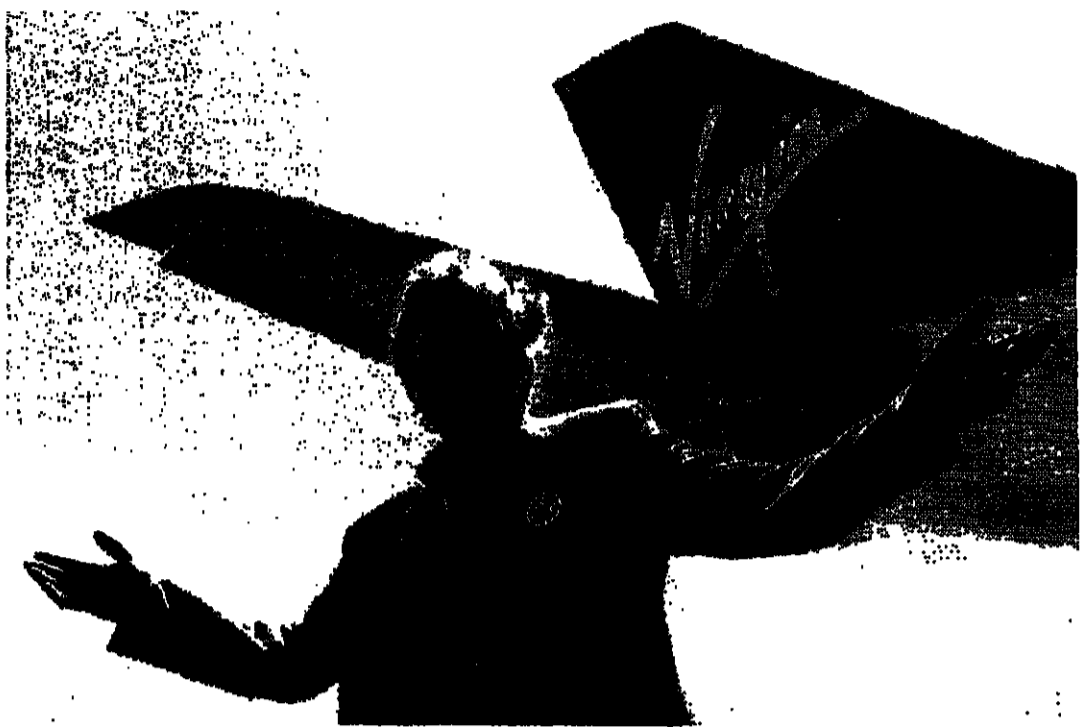
"It would completely screw us," said Branson last week. "I do not think it would be the death of the airline, but it would be a real body-blow."

BA and AA propose to co-ordinate their flights and fares across the Atlantic and market each other's US domestic, European and world-wide networks. This includes the services of partners US Air, America West, Canadian Airlines, Qantas, Deutsche BA and French TAT.

The deal would be a leading example of the industry trend towards global partnerships: offering the world on a single ticket, with common quality standards and reservations systems in all markets.

But it would also give the pair control of 60 per cent of the transatlantic market from the UK and domination in the US and European domestic markets.

The Office of Fair Trading, the European Commission competition team and the US Departments of



Looking on the bright side... Virgin boss Richard Branson is predicting a record profit of £70 million for the 10 months up to the end of August

Justice and Transport are all probing the deal and the airlines face a troubled summer waiting for the first puff of smoke from the authorities.

"There would be a massive reduction in profits if the BAAA deal went through," Branson said last week. "If profits dropped from £70 million to £10 million, which is not unrealistic, we would think twice about investing further in expansion."

From its start in 1984, Virgin Atlantic built up its turnover to around £250 million, with profits of around £7 million a year by early 1991. But it lost £19 million in 1991-92 and £5 million in 1992-93 on turnover of around £400 million. The industry wondered if it could survive.

Virgin did survive and predicts a record profit of £70 million, excluding the Virgin Holidays tour operator, on around £800 million of sales in the 10 months to August 31, 1996.

BA says its deal is competitive and fares across the Atlantic will

come down. Virgin says they will go up. If so, won't everyone, including Virgin, just make more money at the public's expense?

Virgin says not, because BA and American would use their dominant position to the travel agents and corporate business travel contractors into commission deals based on market share — so-called fidelity rebates.

Virgin claims BA's stranglehold on the travel trade is already damaging its business. It has made a complaint to Brussels which is being investigated, and has an anti-trust suit against BA in the US.

BA denies malpractice. However, BA and American are proposing that regulations be relaxed to allow all comers from the US into London's Heathrow airport as a condition of the deal.

US rivals say that as Heathrow is severely congested, BA and AA should be made to give up some of their routes to free capacity. TWA is

already seeking permission to serve Heathrow from New York.

It is understood that Delta could shortly ask to fly from Heathrow to Atlanta, New York and Los Angeles — and will publicly oppose the BAAA deal unless special provisions are made to allow US newcomers into Heathrow. Continental Airlines and Northwest also want access.

Confiscating capacity and sharing it out would open up real multi-wireline transatlantic competition from Heathrow and quell fears that BAAA could develop a monopoly.

Branson wants to kill the deal but would be prepared to accept it if BA were made to give up 25 per cent of its Heathrow capacity, with half of it going to US airlines and half to Virgin.

BA chief executive Robert Ayling says he is not prepared to give up anything. The airline's ability to thrive amid global competition and offer its passengers the best service is at stake. — The Observer

In Brief

TWENTY-FOUR European nations announced in Brussels a \$2.4 billion scheme called Medea to recapture a share of the microelectronics industry from the Asian Tiger economies.

JAPAN'S unemployment rate rose to a record 3.5 per cent in May, boosted by young people who have failed to land jobs after leaving school in March.

HALF of Britain now depends on financial services rather than on manufacturing, according to an official digest of economic and social data.

ALMOST 2,000 UK jobs were lost when the shoe company C & J Clark announced three factory closures and computer retailer Bacom shut 65 stores.

HOPES are rising that a rescue of the Coastin Group — contractor for the controversial Newbury bypass — can be completed. The group was forced to suspend share-dealing after speculation that it was in trouble nearly halved its share price.

CITY investigators are attempting to pin down the full extent of the deception at do-it-yourself retailer Wickes, after the UK company announced that profits had been overstated.

BITAIN'S employers have undermined a key part of Conservative propaganda by insisting that a national minimum wage would have little or no overall effect on jobs.

UK COMPANIES queued at the Indonesia Alroshow 96 to supply aerospace products to the country's armed forces despite human rights groups' fears that new technology will be used to suppress internal unrest.

DASSAULT Aviation, maker of the Mirage fighter-bomber, has agreed to merge with France's state-owned Eurospatiale to create Europe's second-biggest aircraft builder.

	Starting rate July 1	Starting rate June 24
Australia	1.9748-1.9758	1.9453-1.9492
Austria	16.67-16.68	16.60-16.60
Belgium	48.76-48.79	48.60-48.64
Canada	2.1191-2.1228	2.0982-2.1007
Denmark	8.12-8.13	8.07-8.08
France	8.01-8.02	7.98-7.99
Germany	2.2800-2.2812	2.2874-2.2890
Hong Kong	12.03-12.04	11.91-11.92
Ireland	0.9721-0.9725	0.9721-0.9722
Italy	2.288-2.290	2.271-2.273
Japan	170.30-170.54	167.82-168.00
Netherlands	2.8569-2.8587	2.8420-2.8444
New Zealand	2.2987-2.2923	2.2728-2.2752
Norway	10.10-10.12	10.00-10.02
Portugal	243.63-243.60	242.02-242.25
Spain	168.34-168.46	168.22-168.44
Sweden	10.32-10.34	10.23-10.26
Switzerland	1.9419-1.9443	1.9449-1.9465
USA	1.8564-1.8561	1.8399-1.8401
ECU	1.2495-1.2500	1.2441-1.2452

FTSE 100 Share Index up 14.8 to 9786.4. FTSE 250 Index down 6.5 to 4074.4. DAX Index down 10.0 to 8281.0.

The Washington Post

Blast Survivors Lucky to Be Alive

Rick Atkinson in Landstuhl, Germany

FOR Tech. Sgt. Michael Jay, it was the simple act of rummaging for his sneakers in a sturdy metal locker. For Chief Master Sgt. Francis Koslowski, it was the unusual craving for a late-night cup of coffee. And for Master Sgt. Glenn Braden, it was the momentary pause in the kitchen for a drink of water.

In each case, the most inconsequential gestures at 10 p.m. on Tuesday last week — turning left rather than right, bending over rather than standing up — turned out to have life-and-death significance. For each man, indeed for hundreds of Americans living in the U.S. military complex at Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, the distinction between the quick and the dead was decided with terrifying capriciousness by where they were and what they were doing at the moment an enormous bomb ripped through the compound.

Jay, Koslowski and Braden were among 43 injured U.S. Air Force personnel evacuated to the U.S. military medical center in western Germany, where they are being treated for an assortment of gashes, internal injuries and blast effects. In describing the events of last week, they seemed alternately grateful to be alive and baffled to have been spared in a cataclysm that killed 19 of their comrades.

Jay's escape may have been the most miraculous since, he said, he was apparently the only survivor among five airmen on the third floor of Building 131, the eight-story dormitory that took the brunt of the blast when a tanker truck blew up 100 feet away.

The 35-year-old flight engineer for a search-and-rescue HC-130 aircraft had finished work at 9:20 p.m. and slipped into shorts and a T-shirt for a late-night jog. He was looking for his shoes when the world disintegrated around him. "I didn't hear any explosion or see any flash. The first thing I remember was hearing the smoke alarm," he recalled. "I thought maybe it was my alarm clock. But then I realized I wasn't in bed. I was on the floor, and the locker was on top of me. That probably saved my life because it shielded me."

The top of his left ear had been severed and he was badly bruised, but Jay was otherwise intact. He wriggled out from under the locker, blood gushing from his ear. Peering through the gloom, he could see that the building's outside wall had been ripped away. The balcony was gone. A roommate on the couch in the living room of the five-bedroom suite had vanished. He was later found among the dead.

Inching his way through debris in his stocking feet, Jay gingerly walked down the stairwell and out the back door.

Staff Sgt. Azdra Stanton, a 31-year-old C-130 crewman also was in Building 131, a victim of fate attributable to an engine malfunction that forced his aircraft to return to Saudi Arabia instead of flying to Kuwait City as planned. After getting back to the Khobar Towers compound at 7 p.m., Stanton worked out at the

gymnasium and then repaired to a fifth-floor common room where he was watching a video. Suddenly, a security guard, one of three on the roof who had spotted the suspicious truck parked next to the compound wall, raced down the corridor yelling, "Clear the building! Clear the building!"

Stanton bolted into the bedroom to grab his military identification card, vacating the more exposed common room just as the bomb exploded. Flung against a wall, his face and upper torso badly lacerated, he gathered his senses, slipped on a pair of boots and picked his way down the stairwell.

Koslowski, 45, was working late on the fifth floor of nearby Building 127. His unit, the 58th Fighter Squadron, had nearly finished its 75-day rotation in Saudi Arabia, patrolling the "no-fly zone" in southern Iraq with F-15C fighters, and Koslowski was filling out paperwork. He needed a caffeine jolt and walked into the kitchen across the hall for a cup.

"I heard a roar like a train coming down the tracks, except a lot louder. All of a sudden the wall came in on me," he recalled. "Everything went in slow motion. I saw the window coming out, the frame and everything coming right at me. I tried to turn, but it hit me."

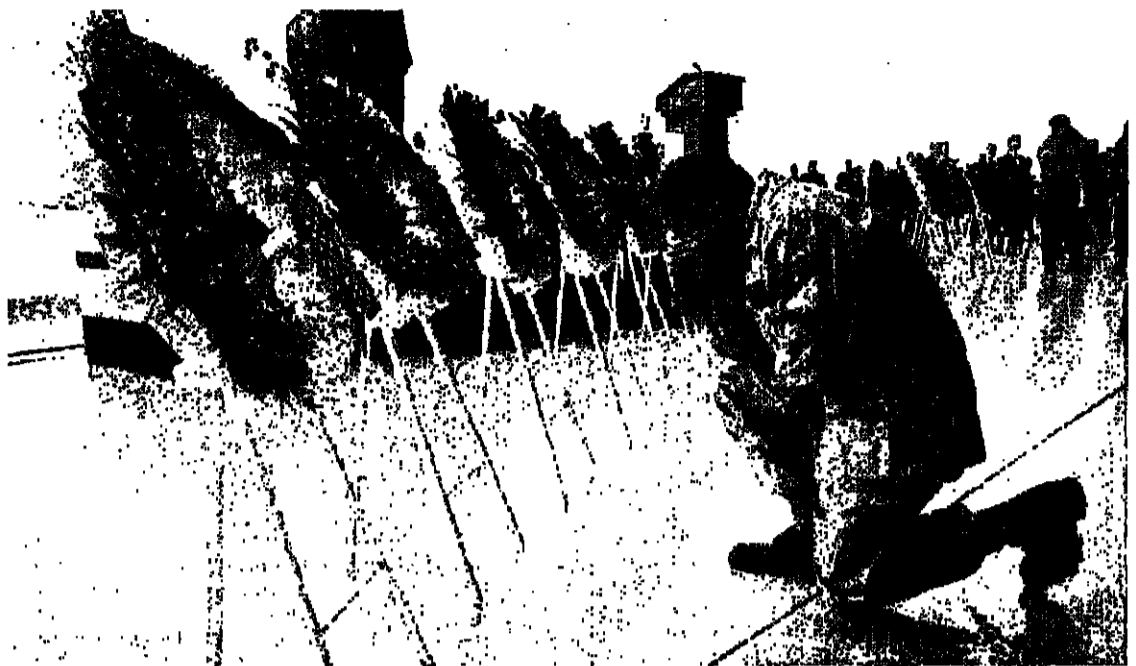
Glass slashed through his right arm to the bone, ripping up tendons and muscle. Fragments peppered his face and upper body. Still, he was lucky. Twelve men in the squadron were killed, he said, and 20 others seriously injured.

Braden, 41, was also in a kitchen, in Building 130. A maintenance technician for the 79th Fighter Squadron, he had just finished jogging and had stopped for a drink of water after showering. As he tossed the paper cup away, he heard a loud boom and sensed a bright flash behind him. "Then tornado-force winds knocked me across the kitchen. I was clinging to the refrigerator. The lights went out. I could feel that my leg was hurt," he said. "When I got into my room and got a flashlight, I saw that the back of my leg was split open, the whole length of it. I tied a towel around it as a tourniquet and yelled for help."

Each of the men interviewed praised the efforts of emergency response teams and the quick action of medical personnel, both American and Saudi.

Col. Kevin C. Kiley, commander of the U.S. military's medical center here, said all 43 patients — two of whom are women — are considered stable, including four who remain in the intensive care ward. Another nine injured Americans considered too badly hurt to move are still in Dhahran hospitals but will likely be flown to Germany in the coming days.

None of the men interviewed criticized security measures at the Khobar compound although none seemed overly eager to return to Saudi Arabia.



An Air Force sergeant weeps for fallen comrades following a memorial service for slain members of the 33rd Fighter Wing at Eglin Air Force Base in Florida at the weekend

Life Returns to Normal at Saudi Base

John Lancaster in Dhahran

ON THE surface, life is slowly returning to normal at Khobar Towers, the military housing complex where 19 Americans died in a terrorist truck-bomb explosion last week. U.S. troops in T-shirts and gym shorts walked down hamburgers and pasta salad at an outdoor barbecue on Friday last week, the Muslim day of rest, while others sprawled in front of a big-screen television in the Konekation, a cavernous underground pool hall and nightclub.

In another sign of recovery, base authorities have rescinded the "no salute" rule, which briefly dispensed with normal military formalities in the chaotic aftermath of the blast. More importantly, U.S., French and British aircraft enforcing the U.N.-sanctioned light ban over southern Iraq have resumed their normal operating tempo of 100 missions per day.

But for many, perhaps most, of the 2,250 American service personnel who make their homes at Khobar Towers, life is anything but normal. It never was. Notwithstanding close military ties between the U.S. and Saudi governments, U.S. service personnel in Saudi Arabia are strangers in a strange land, and the bombing has only deepened their sense of isolation.

U.S. military commanders go to great lengths to avoid offending local religious sensitivities. Alcohol is banned. Troops venturing into town must observe a strict dress code. Women are not allowed off base without male escorts.

Security fears add another blanket of restrictions to soldiers' lives. Following the bombing last November of a U.S. Army training mission in Riyadh that killed five Americans, commanders barred their troops from sitting down in restaurants, where they might make easy targets for terrorists. Now they are not even permitted to go off base.

Not that many are complaining. Even before the bombing, Americans rarely ventured into town, devoting their limited free time to lifting weights or learning to dance.

"We're here for a particular task," Lt. Col. Dennis Aleson, a Protestant

chaplain on the base, told reporters. "People work 12-hour days six days a week. There isn't too much time to enjoy the culture."

The large U.S. military presence in Dhahran dates from 1980, when about 340,000 American troops assembled in Saudi Arabia as part of the U.S.-led coalition to drive Iraqi forces from Kuwait. At the time, the presence of the Western "infidels" caused enormous controversy in Saudi Arabia, a country so strict that women are not allowed to drive. But in a reflection of Saudi Arabia's strategic importance to the United States — and of Saudi Arabia's continued dependence on U.S. protection from hostile neighbors such as Iraq and Iran — the Americans have stayed.

About 5,000 U.S. troops serve in Saudi Arabia. The largest contingent, comprising 2,250 personnel, is in Dhahran. About 2,000 of them are involved in Operation Southern Watch, which enforces the ban on Iraqi flights over southern Iraq. The rest are mostly Army personnel associated with a Patriot missile battery, military spokesmen said.

Yeltsin Campaign Bribes Reporters

Leo Hockstader in Moscow

BORIS YELTSIN'S presidential campaign and its financial backers are spending large sums of cash — hundreds of thousands of dollars by some estimates — to bribe and influence Russian journalists and drive home an anti-Communist message, according to a variety of sources here.

Other campaigns in the Russian presidential race, including the Communists', also have spent heavily to arrange for favorable articles in newspapers and appearances on popular television and radio talk shows. But none has recruited journalists so methodically, nor paid them off so handsomely, said the Yeltsin campaign and its friends, said the sources, who include journalists, media executives, politicians and consultants to the Yeltsin campaign.

Working in conjunction with an array of private firms, including public relations agencies, the campaign and its backers have arranged

for payoffs to journalists ranging from thousands of dollars a month for the most recognized reporters from major Moscow newspapers to \$100 for a freelance piece by a novice ghostwriting for a provincial newspaper.

The price range for appearances on some television programs is considerably higher, and radio also does not come cheaply. But it is generally only lesser candidates who have had to pay for broadcast time because Yeltsin already exercises substantial control over Russia's main TV stations and has monopolized air time.

"This is a widespread practice," said Andrei Richter, director of the Center for Media Law and Ethics.

In an interview, a young Moscow journalist said he was paid several thousand dollars during the campaign to write articles stressing the danger of a Communist comeback in Russia. Many of the stories were planted in regional newspapers under a fictitious byline, he said.

He finally refused to take any more payoffs when he was asked to write what he considered to be disinformation about a rival to Yeltsin, liberal economist Grigory Yavlinsky. "Of course, reporters aren't stupid. We understand this is corruption," he said, speaking on condition that he not be identified. "But when it's small-scale, we don't really see it as corruption. It's considered a normal means of survival. . . . Besides, in comparison with what [we] know about corruption in government, this doesn't seem like much."

A top strategist with the Yeltsin campaign confirmed that the campaign and its allies have poured money into planting what is known here as "hidden advertising" in Russian newspapers. "It is done in every campaign by every politician in every country," said Vyacheslav Nikonov, the Yeltsin campaign official. "In this country it was done by the headquarters of every campaign, and naturally it was also done by our headquarters."

Japan can't risk

CIA Knew Guatemala Agents Were Killers

R. Jeffrey Smith

A PRESIDENTIAL advisory panel disclosed last week that the CIA employed multiple informants in the Guatemalan government and military forces over the past decade who agency officials knew were involved in assassinations, torture, kidnappings and murders in that country.

The Intelligence Oversight Board also concluded that CIA officials wrongfully kept information about these crimes and other human rights abuses committed by their paid Guatemalan informants from Congress, constituting a violation of U.S. law that continued until late 1994.

The board did not identify the informants, whom the CIA paid while providing extensive assistance to Guatemalan military operations against peasant guerrillas from 1984 to the early 1990s.

The board declined to accuse any individuals at the CIA of deliberate deception or criminal wrongdoing. It blamed instead a systematic failure by the agency to pay heed to the issue of human rights in its foreign operations until 1994. At that time, abuses by a paid CIA informant in another Central American country, El Salvador, provoked a broad CIA investigation and a damning inter-

nal report on the behavior of many of its human "assets," or informants, in the region.

None of the questionable informants remains on the CIA's payroll, but only one was dropped because of involvement in human rights abuses, according to the board.

The board's report resulted from a 15-month investigation and grew out of public allegations by Rep. Robert G. Torricelli, D-New Jersey, last year that the CIA had on its payroll a Guatemalan military officer who was linked to the murders of an American inkeeper, Michael DeVine, and a Guatemalan guerrilla married to U.S. citizen Jennifer Harbury.

Asked to comment, Torricelli said the report should have expressed "a greater level of outrage at the fact that American taxpayer money was used by the CIA to pay Guatemalans who murdered, tortured, and then covered up their crimes."

Harbury said she welcomed the report's disclosures about sordid activity by CIA contacts and its failures to inform Congress, but disagreed with some of its findings regarding her husband's death and promised to say more at a later time.

The board, which had wide-ranging access to classified documents at the CIA, the Pentagon, the

State Department and the National Security Agency, bluntly called the CIA's performance on human rights issues during the period in question "unacceptable," even though Guatemala has long been notorious for lawlessness and violence.

But the board's report, which was presented in classified form to President Clinton, also complemented a series of reforms instituted early this year by CIA director John M. Deutch to correct some of the agency's mistakes. It included a new directive generally barring the recruitment of unsavory informants except when senior CIA officials decide their assistance is warranted by national interests.

White House officials said last week that they approved of the report's conclusions, including its recommendation that Clinton take other steps to correct a series of lesser errors in Guatemala. The board called, for example, for a new agreement between the State Department and the CIA to ensure that U.S. ambassadors are kept abreast of important CIA activities overseas.

Drawing on what it described as an almost inexplicable failure to provide accurate or timely information to Harbury and other U.S. citizens related to crime victims in Guatemala, the board also called for

better government record-keeping and a more helpful government attitude in such cases.

While the board acknowledged in its report that the business of spying necessarily brings the CIA into contact with criminal figures and people with records of sordid behavior, the board listed several examples of informants in Guatemala whose activities were so egregious that they should have been shunned.

One unnamed informant "was the subject of allegations that in multiple instances he ordered and planned assassinations of political opponents and extrajudicial killings of criminals," the report said. Another was alleged to have "planned or to have had prior knowledge of multiple separate assassinations or assassination attempts." A third was accused of involvement in killings and kidnappings, while "a few" others were accused of "acts of intimidation."

Anthony Harrington, a Washington lawyer who directed the board's probe, declined to say exactly how many CIA informants were in such activities or to provide any other details, in part because of what he described as a reluctance by the CIA to reveal the extent of its "penetration" of the Guatemalan government and military forces.

He attributed the CIA's failure to take a hard look at these informants partly to the extraordinary "aura of secrecy" that surrounds all foreign activities of the CIA's Directorate of Operations, or clandestine service. He attributed it also to the relentless emphasis of CIA managers during this period on recruiting as many "assets" as possible, regardless of quality or behavior.

In addition to finding that the CIA's station in Guatemala failed to investigate reports about sordid activities by some of its informants, the board confirmed a long-standing suspicion in Washington that the agency's employees in Guatemala became too close to their contacts in the Guatemalan government and wound up overlooking the activities of some of those contacts.

In one significant instance documented by the CIA inspector general in 1994 but publicly described in detail for the first time by the board, the station chief "delayed, diluted, and suppressed some reports because he feared they would hurt the reputation of the Guatemalan military services and his ability to work with them."

The board also blamed the superiors of these officers at Washington headquarters for tending to withhold embarrassing details about their Guatemalan contacts from their colleagues, instead passing along mostly favorable information.

Diplomats To 'Kiss And Tell' More

Lee Hockstader in Moscow

"NO SEX, please, we're diplomats." That was the policy at the U.S. Embassy here during the grim years of the Cold War. Liaisons with Russians, dangerous or otherwise, were definitely out.

That changed a year ago. Romancing Russians was suddenly approved, as long as U.S. diplomats reported a relationship — known delicately as a "contact" — to the embassy. Call it a "kiss-and-tell" policy. But now the embassy wants to know more, and sooner.

In a policy directive issued to U.S. personnel at the embassy last month, the government spells out tightened rules on reporting one's love life. While in the past the policy applied only to a "continuing relationship or cohabitation," it now encompasses "any romantic and sexually intimate relationship."

In other words, diplomats were required to report only when things got serious. Now a hot date might have to be followed by a cool memo the morning after.

Actually, the rules say relationships should be reported to the embassy security office "as soon as possible" after they start — no need for a memo pad on the night stand. Several embassy officials contacted last week said the new guidelines are still fuzzy enough to leave room for interpretation.

Take, for instance, a hypothetical rendezvous between an American diplomat named Jane and her Russian friend, Boris. Jane and Boris have a torrid Saturday night followed by a rollicking Sunday afternoon. When Jane shows up for work Monday, would she have to file a report on her wild weekend with Boris?

"I don't know," said one exasperated diplomat. "I guess it depends on whether the date stayed for breakfast on Monday morning."

The shift in policy was inspired by a worldwide memo dated June 4 from the State Department's Bureau of Diplomatic Security setting guidelines for diplomats in countries that "pose an exceptional intelligence threat to the U.S."

Three days later, the embassy here circulated a notice to its 500 or so American employees with the following Cold War-style warning: "Employees are reminded that the intelligence threat Russia poses to the United States is still formidable and the purpose behind such reporting is to ensure employees do not become subject to exploitation by a foreign intelligence service."

U.S. diplomats said the new rules were not triggered by any specific breach of security. Rather, they are concerned about a generally more aggressive attitude by Russian intelligence agencies.

A spokeswoman for the Bureau of Diplomatic Security insisted the policy change was not ordered by Washington. In fact, she said, "There's no new policy, there's just a reminder that this is the policy... romantic and sexually intimate relationships should be reported as soon as the employee determines it's a continuing relationship."

But what is a continuing relationship? "For some people that could be the next day and for guys it could be two or three weeks," she said. "That determination could be different for different people, don't you think?"

Arms Sales Restraint Urged

R. Jeffrey Smith

A N ADVISORY panel appointed by President Clinton has warned that the \$22 billion global trade in increasingly sophisticated conventional arms threatens to undermine the security of the United States and its friends and has called on Washington and its allies to exercise more restraint in selling such weaponry to other countries.

Noting that the end of the Cold War has reshaped the world market for armaments and given the United States the predominant share of all such exports, the panel said that Washington should show more

leadership to slow the proliferation of advanced weaponry and ensure that civilian technologies are not being diverted to military use overseas.

Although the panel noted that some arms sales to friendly regimes can add to U.S. security, it warned that modern arms "have in some cases attained degrees of military effectiveness... [previously] associated only with nuclear weapons" and expressed particular concern about the risks from selling to unstable regimes in Asia and the Persian Gulf.

In particular, the panel called for U.S. policymakers to stop approving some weapons exports to Iraq

declining U.S. defense firms, a recommendation at direct odds with a U.S. conventional arms control policy adopted by Clinton in February 1995. National security interests should be the sole criteria for making such exports, and domestic economic pressures should "not be allowed to subvert" decision-making, the panel said.

"The world struggles today with the implications of [exporting] advanced conventional weapons," including the promotion of regional arms races or political instabilities, and risks to U.S. soldiers overseas, the panel said. It warned of even greater problems in the future, as "yet another generation of

weapons" with greater destructive power is exported.

As a result, the five-member, bipartisan panel said it was "strongly convinced that control of conventional arms and technology transfers must become a significantly more important and integral element of United States foreign and defense policy."

The U.S. share of the global arms market is 52 percent, up from around 25 percent nine years ago, and will likely expand to about 60 percent by the end of the decade, according to the report. But the size of the market has shrunk by more than half during the same period, primarily at the expense of Russia, which no longer ships arms to client states. U.S. domestic arms procurement also declined by \$60 billion between 1985 and 1993.



Common myths about Offshore Banking

"All offshore banks are the same"

At first glance, offshore banks may seem similar. The difference is in the quality of services they provide to ensure you can make the most of your money. For example, does your offshore bank provide you with the following:

- 24 hour banking by phone or fax YES NO
Free annual review of your financial affairs YES NO
Automated Savings Plan which makes financial planning simple YES NO
A full range of investments YES NO

If you benefit from all these, the chances are you're already banking with Midland Offshore. If not read on.

Not only are we open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, but when you contact us you'll be surprised by how much you can achieve over the phone. You can open accounts, make payments and transfers and if you need advice on an account or investment, our financial advisers can help. You'll also find we have innovative services, such as the Automated Savings Plan, which through sound financial planning keeps your money where it's working hardest for you. And, depending on your needs, we can recommend investments from Midland Offshore or from other selected financial services specialists.

To find out just how different we are, call our Offshore Service Centre or return the coupon.

Call 44 1534 616111 or fax 44 1534 616222 24 hours a day

or return the coupon to Midland Offshore, PO Box 815, St Helier, Jersey JE4 5YD, Channel Islands. *E-mail: midoffsh@iinet



Helping you make your money work harder

Member ISBC Group

*Please include your mailing address on email correspondence. Midland Offshore is the registered name of Midland Offshore International Finance Corporation Limited (MIFICO). MIFICO's principal place of business is 1501, 16th Street, New York, NY 10019, USA. MIFICO is a wholly owned subsidiary of Midland Group plc, a public limited company registered in England. MIFICO is not a bank. All services are provided on a non-guaranteed basis. The services are not covered by any insurance or other form of protection. The services are not available in all countries. Please refer to the Midland Offshore website for more information. © 1995 The Washington Post Co.

Prisoners Plan Lottery Of Death

Douglas Farah in San Salvador

SALVADORAN prisoners, angered by severe overcrowding that forces them to sleep in shifts and often go without food, are threatening to kill fellow inmates by lottery beginning July 15 to force the government to deal with the crisis.

Prison conditions here, always grim, deteriorated in recent months as police multiplied arrests during a crime wave. According to Victor Marina de Aviles, the government's human rights ombudsman, the situation now is "inhuman and such a threat for potential violence that it is indispensable to resolve the crisis immediately, in a responsible, humane manner."

Aviles, who issued a report last month, found the largest prisons are holding three times their intended capacity. Across the country, 8,225 inmates are jammed into prisons with a theoretical capacity of 3,800.

"From the reports we have received regarding horrendous overcrowding, rampant violence, insufficient food and primitive sanitary conditions in Salvadoran prisons. Human Rights Watch believes that such conditions violate the prohibition on 'cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment' contained in the Universal Bill of Rights," said Joanne Mariner, at the New York-based human rights group.

Inefficiency of the judicial system greatly compounds the problem. According to Aviles, 70 percent of the 8,225 inmates have never been convicted; they are waiting to be charged and tried. Some prisoners have been incarcerated longer than the maximum sentence for the crimes they are charged with.

"The figures are unacceptable," said Justice Minister Ruben Mejia in an interview. "Prisoners are in very



Medical staff help a dehydrated hunger striker from Santa Ana Jail near San Salvador. He was protesting against poor prison conditions.

bad conditions, but their biggest concern is their judicial status. Their biggest complaint is that they do not know what their sentence is or when they will be sentenced."

The prisons have not been upgraded or repaired for decades because of the 14-year civil war, which ended in 1992.

And a seemingly endless stream of robberies, kidnappings and murders prodded the police to crack down, especially on young men who belong to violent street gangs.

The uncertainty and overcrowding led inmates at the Santa Ana prison, 60 miles north of San Salvador, to announce last month that they would kill four prisoners, beginning July 15, if the crisis is not resolved. The jail was built for a maximum of 350 prisoners and holds 787; many don't get meals and sleep in shifts on hard bunks or cement floors.

Abraham Paniagua, an inmate leader, told a news conference recently at the Santa Ana prison that inmates would hold a "lottery of death" — with 787 pieces of paper in

a container, four with the word "death" written on them. Those who draw the death slips would die. The lottery apparently follows similar protests in Brazil, where several prisoners were killed.

"We had agreed to slit their throats, but it could be they would voluntarily choose to hang themselves first," Paniagua said. Prison officials concerned with overcrowding made him available to air inmates' grievances.

Family members scurried to the prison to keep vigil, wives and girlfriends praying as rumors of violence inside the prison spread.

"We don't want our children to die; what will we do?" said Hermeinda Zaldivar. "We don't want any bloodshed. But my son has been in there for two years, and neither his lawyer nor the judge gives me any hope of when he will be tried."

Last month, prisoners announced they would kill any new inmate delivered to Mariona. The government stopped shipping prisoners there, exacerbating the problems in other prisons.

Military College Bows to Court Order on Women

Rene Sanchez

THE CITADEL, one of the United States' last all-male, publicly funded military colleges, announced last week that it will begin accepting women into its ranks for the first time this fall, abruptly ending a tradition it had fiercely protected for 153 years.

That decision, made unanimously by the college's governing board, came in response to a landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision last week. The court, in a 7 to 1 ruling, said that the male-only policy at the state-supported Virginia Military Institute was unconstitutional.

In a statement, Jimmy Jones, the president of the Citadel's board, said that the college, which is in Charleston, South Carolina, will "enthusiastically" begin accepting women into its corps of cadets. VMI, the nation's only other all-male, public military college, has yet to decide if it will accept women in light of the Supreme Court's decision, or try to become an entirely private institution instead. VMI officials did not comment on the Citadel's decision.

"The court has spoken and we've said, 'Yes sir,'" said Lt. Col. Terrence Leedom, a spokesman for the Citadel. "We're going to do everything we can to make this work."

The Citadel's new policy ends an epic legal battle over admitting women that has dragged on for years and drawn national attention. Attorneys for the college have vigorously opposed every challenge to its all-male policy, and both the Citadel and VMI have supported new military training programs at all-female colleges near them.

But last fall, over the objections of the Citadel, a federal judge ordered one young woman who had filed suit against the college, Shannon Faulkner, to be admitted. "But

Faulkner dropped out during the college's grueling "Hell Week" orientation for freshmen. Since then, two other women have taken legal action to be admitted to the Citadel.

Robert Black, a lawyer for Faulkner and the two other women, said last week that the Citadel had no choice but to change its policy after the Supreme Court decision because it depends so much on public money. "There's no way they can do without it," Black said.

Leedom said about one-fourth of the Citadel's budget is public money. He said the college had considered becoming a private institution, but decided against it because it would still need public funds for important cadet training classes, and thus would still be vulnerable to legal challenges to admit women.

"Going private would not have solved our problem," Leedom said. "It's virtually impossible for us not to have some kind of federal or state support."

Black and women's rights groups praised the Citadel's decision, but cautioned that the real test of the college's commitment to admitting women will be determined by how aggressively it recruits them and offers financial aid for tuition. About half of the college's male cadets are recruited from out-of-state.

"It's a very good sign that they are not dragging their feet after the Supreme Court ruling," Black said. "But there's still going to have to be a lot of follow-through if they really intend to accept women. We don't know yet if they are truly behind this."

Only four of the Citadel's 1,300 applicants for the next school term are women. Leedom said the college had no idea how many more to expect now but will be prepared to change its campus housing and offer them the same financial aid as male applicants.

Handwritten text: 116

Prelude to Power

Kevin Phillips
PARTNERS IN POWER
The Clintons and Their America
By Roger Morris
Henry Holt, 526pp, \$27.50

THIS IS A fascinating and important book, although it is mostly about the Clintons prior to January 1993. Author Roger Morris, a liberal, earned praise from reviewers for his books skewering Nixon Era Republicans — Nixon himself, Alexander Haig and Henry Kissinger. Now he has written a not-quite-indictment of Bill Clinton that is cumulatively more damning than the one-dimensional harshness churned out by the American Spectator and suchlike.

Even the title, *Partners in Power*, is a good capsule of its contents — a dual portrait of both Clintons and the extraordinary chemistry of their joint rise. Regarding the President, the first 200 pages of family and early background — of his father, in particular — frame one of Morris's most insistent points: that the fate of the Clinton administration lies in his past.

And he points that past in a sad pathologicallity. The President's father and stepfather were salesmen, but they were both also notorious womanizers, and his mother tolerated it in them. As the child of alcoholics, "Clinton learned to lie automatically and without any sense of guilt." He grew up around household violence and physical and verbal abuse, and came of age in Hot Springs, a gambling town, where bags of money floated around and the civic culture ran on hypocrisy. Hillary Rodham, by contrast, grew up a reasonably staid Methodist in suburban Chicago, in school so "defiantly unadorned and blithely uninterested in boys" that the high school newspaper predicted she would become a nun and be known as Sister Frigidaria.

Despite occasional lapses into clichéd outsiderism, Morris also succeeds in painting both Little Rock and Washington as moral swamps in which Clinton's opportunism, developed in the former, prepared him, after a few stumbles, to thrive in the latter.

The Little Rock episodes, distilled for their essence, show Clinton as a populist or liberal in rhetoric and a power-structure ally in reality.

IN 1979, with the Clintons now married and just moved into the governor's mansion, Hillary took over the couple's financial rain-maker role with a little help from executives of Arkansas's own Tyson Foods and the famous commodity trades.

"This was chapter one, his first gubernatorial term. The chapters involving Clinton's re-election in 1982 following defeat in 1980 and then his subsequent statehouse terms right up to 1992, are more of the same. They chronicle how the young governor's ties to Arkansas business and finance continued to flower; 'McBollars,' Clinton would laughingly call the money that always seemed available through the owner of Madison Guaranty." Tales of how Clinton's womanizing went from bad to worse, with Hillary being outraged when the state troopers she had thought would restrain him wound up collaborating. And details on the closeness between Bill Clinton and soon-to-be-convicted drug dealer Dan Lasater.

Morris cites teacher and social worker Sally Perdue (who claims to have had an affair with Clinton), convicted drug dealer Sharkie Wilson, and an unnamed state policeman, all alleging that Clinton attended cocaine parties and used cocaine.

There are some new twists on Whitewater, too, describing how elderly blue-collar people lost their savings, land or both in Whitewater. But Chapter 19, on "Little Rock and Men," alleges Clinton connections to shadowy CIA-linked drug and smuggling operations run out of northwest Arkansas during the 1980s and then shifts to a different note. The book includes anonymous allegations about an affair between Vincent Foster, the White House aide who committed suicide in mid-1993, and Hillary Clinton.

The book's Washington chapters are different — readable but more argumentation than new investigative findings. Instead of weaving the Clintons' financial and personal behavior into a larger context of corruption, as in Arkansas, the author mostly talks about the corruption in more abstract vocational categories from lobbyists, whom he calls Washington's permanent government, to journalists, whom he generally dismisses as ineffective or complicitous.

In terms of detail, the book ends with the inauguration. But in his afterword Morris calls the Clintons the lesser evils in a contest with the Republicans, and identifies both sides as bereft and corrupt. "Neither their opponents nor their supporters recognize the reality of these partners in power — that the Clintons are not merely symptomatic but emblematic of the larger bipartisan system in its end-of-the-century dead end."

The author appends one unusual post-1993 indictment against Washington: his case that the Capital City, with its "culture of complicity," has sloughed off evidence that Clinton, himself verbally and physically abused as a child, does the same to women. Morris lambastes the mainstream Washington press for trying to make light of the Paula Jones sexual harassment case, insists that Clinton used his official position to approach women. But many of Morris's assertions about the Clintons are offered as fact although the supporting evidence is not always shared with the reader, who must take them on faith.

Because the book's publication follows the Whitewater verdicts and their further legitimization of serious investigations into Clinton's past — subpoenas, depositions, televised congressional hearings and the like are already in the works — Roger Morris can expect *Partners in Power* to have some political influence.

How much all of this will matter is another question. Other books have sifted much of this material (although Morris's previous investigative political biographies elevate him), and Clinton now enjoys a strong lead over Dole in the national polls, despite the fact that jokes about his morals have become standard fare on late-night television. And we need only remember that the last two presidents to score more than 60 percent of the vote — Lyndon Johnson and Richard Nixon — did so in elections in which their scandals and ethics were an issue. Maybe that will be the story again in 1996.

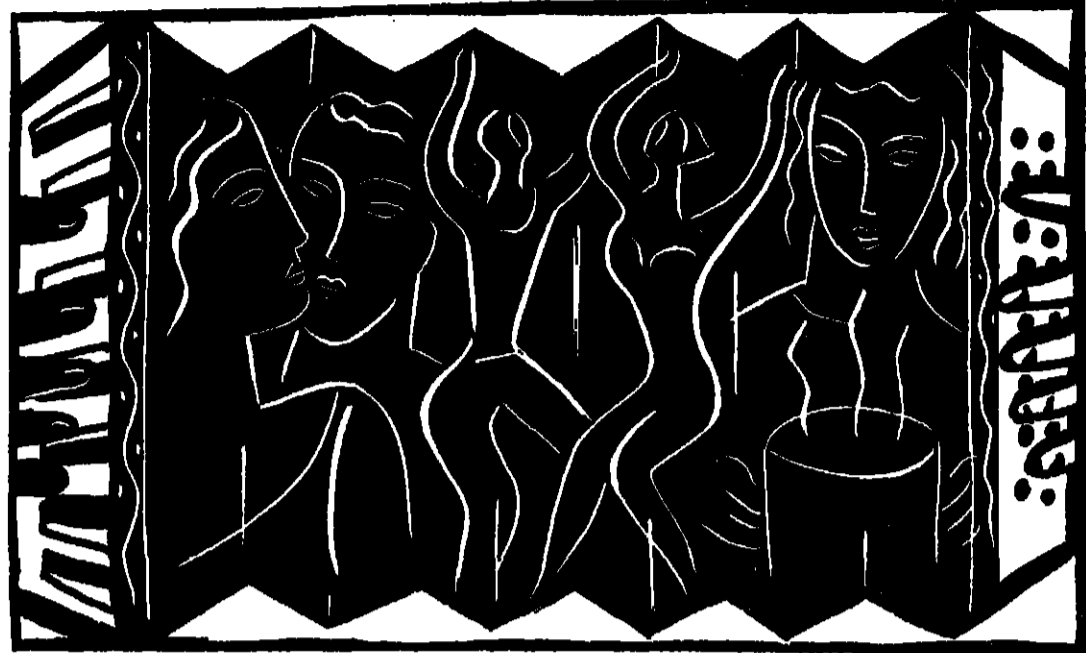


ILLUSTRATION: ANTHONY RUSSO

Notes From the New World

Michael Dirra
Accordion Crimes
By E. Annie Proulx
Scribner, 381pp, \$25

E. ANNIE PROULX's first two novels — *Postcards* (1992) and *The Shipping News* (1993) — walked away with virtually all the most glittering literary prizes, including the PEN-Faulkner, the National Book Award, the Pulitzer and the Irish Times International Fiction Prize (big bucks). You would think Proulx would have the simple decency to make her third novel merely so-so, if only to let someone else grab a little limelight. No such luck. Born in 1935, Annie Proulx spent a lot of years learning her craft, selling articles to regional magazines, working on gardening books, producing short stories, as well as raising three sons. She now seems to know everything about writing. And a fair amount about life, too. After all, a young author may be accomplished, witty or technically innovative, but no kid can ever match a middle-aged novelist for insight into everyone's favorite tragicomic, the ravages of time and fate.

In *Accordion Crimes*, a group of eight linked stories, Proulx takes us on a panoramic tour (*d'horizon and de force*) of America's ethnic past. To accomplish this she creates a green button accordion — that most insulted and injured of musical instruments — which comes to be owned by a score or so working-class people during the hundred years of its knockabout existence. For these various family mini-sagas, set in Louisiana, Maine, Chicago, the West and other regions, Proulx mimics perfectly the broken English, characteristic idioms, and keenly expressed prejudices of Italians, blacks, Poles, French Canadians, Germans, Cajuns and Hispanics. She vividly evokes, again and again, the exhausting lives and desperate pleasures of the poor: "He made her pregnant on their wedding night, and his life slipped into the ancient human groove of procreation, work, cooking, children's sicknesses and their little talents and possibilities. For the first time he saw he was no different than anyone else."

Many stories about immigrants in 20th-century America tend to be uplifting, but not Proulx's. If one may

criticize *Accordion Crimes* ever so mildly, it is only for its relentless existential bleakness. Imagine the folksy tales of Lake Wobegon, retold by Dreiser or Richard Wright. An innocent Italian accordion-maker is shot to death by an angry racist mob. A young girl lifts up her arms and has them sheared off above the elbow by a flying piece of scrap metal. A wheelchair-bound man is miraculously cured, then commits suicide.

Yet grim as these events are, Proulx's sentences invest them with a sardonic wit, like items from *News of the Weird*. "A month later word came from Texas that Messer-macher had dropped dead at his mailbox, the new Sears catalog open on his breast at the pages showing a selection of women's hair nets." Another character actually finds "a job for a few months delivering white ashtray sand to luxury hotels and apartment buildings."

Accordion Crimes beautifully recreates the spicy, colorful, almost tall-tale side of American ethnic life. Tamonette joins a civil rights sit-in partly because her great-aunt "had gone to Paris in the 1920s as a white family's maid and there learned to fly an airplane, returned to the south as a crop duster until a white farmer shot her out of the sky in 1931; even then she went fiercely, aiming the diving flery plane at the man in the field with the rifle, and got him, too."

There are, not surprisingly, mouthwatering, high-caloric descriptions of food and feasts. Consider the cuisine of Mrs. Josef Przbysz: "In her day she had cooked with passion and experience, a craftworker who needed no measuring cup or recipe, who held everything in her mind. She kept a garden in the handkerchief yard, tomatoes tied to old crates she took from the Dumpster at the hospital, she made her own good sausage and fermented oatmeal and good sour bread . . . and for Sunday dinner *go-labki*, the little cabbage rolls in a sweet-sour sauce, and always a fresh-baked round *babka* or two." Later, she mentions *holac* out rolls — unbeatable, by the way, with coffee. Proulx clearly knows the Slavic world of my own childhood. But then she knows your child-

hood or your parents' too, provided you come from an ethnic group that plays and loves the accordion in all its bellowing, bleating oom-pah-pah glory. Mexican folk songs. Zydeco. Beerhall music. Polkas. Proulx packs her pages with parties, dances, funerals, weddings, music contests, nightclub acts — and she makes you hear the raucous chords, feel the growing heat, see the manic sweating dancers. Still, my favorite of her many musical soires begins quietly when a trucker hires an accordion-violin duo to play at a surprise birthday party:

"His wife was white with rage, had been truly and unpleasantly surprised, for her birthday had come and gone unnoticed two weeks before; now, gripped by savage menstrual cramps, both kids hacking with bronchial coughs, she had been slopping around in a torn housecoat, the place a mess of strewn socks, dirty dishes and dust kitties, when cars and trucks began to pull up and disgorge strangers who wished her happy birthday, lit cigarettes and started to drink." Matters rapidly go downhill.

PROULX sticks closely to her downtrodden and fated protagonists, gradually disclosing their pathetic hopes for a better life and their own recurrent prejudices: anti-German feeling during World War I, Polish hatred for the blacks swarming into the old neighborhoods, Hispanic loathing of Italians, the mutual disdain of cowboy and city slicker. In these pages America's melting pot sometimes merely simmers with unhappiness. While older immigrants dream, usually in vain, of making it, getting rich, becoming American, their children or grandchildren soon find themselves eager to reject all the old-country ways or oppressed by a sense of loss, yearning for a vanishing culture just beyond their grasp.

Though it may at times seem like North American magic realism, the book, with its admixture of representative types, gallows humor and overt symbolism, actually belongs to the underappreciated tradition of naturalism. Proulx knows life's extravagant bounty and wastefulness, loves a melodramatic flourish; and deftly keeps the reader waiting hundreds of pages to see who will uncover the thousand-dollar bill hidden inside the green accordion.

Le Monde

Blow to Algeria as France cuts back aid

Jean-Pierre Tuquol

AFTER a considerable amount of dithering, the French government has decided to cut back its aid to Algeria. The decision was due to be communicated to the Algerian authorities at an unspecified future date and then made public by the French foreign ministry, which has been handling all press statements on relations between the two countries since the murder of seven French Trappist monks in Algeria in May.

But leaked reports suggesting that French aid was going to be reduced to 3 billion francs (\$600 million), or half its present amount, prompted the French foreign ministry to issue a statement on June 25 in which it confirmed that, as a result of budget cuts in 1996, France was planning an across-the-board reduction in aid to all recipient countries.

"In this respect," the ministry said, "Algeria will be no exception to the rule, nor will it be treated less favourably [than other countries]. Reports that our financial dealings with Algeria will be reduced by 50 per cent have no foundation."

Up to now, aid to Algeria has

been fixed by a financial agreement signed in July 1994 by the then French finance minister, Edmond Alphandery, and his Algerian opposite number, Ahmed Benbitour.

The 6 billion franc aid package chiefly helped the Algerian government to finance the purchase of French products, such as capital equipment, pharmaceuticals, vehicles and cereals, and to put the country's finances on an even keel. That aid has now been used up, and Franco-Algerian relations continue along traditional commercial lines.

Paris can produce several arguments to explain its cutback in aid: such financial agreements represent a burden on the French budget; it makes political sense to try to reduce them in order to enable France to meet the Maastricht criteria and join the European Monetary Union.

Further justification for France's decision can be found in the fact that the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank and the European Union (EU) are all queuing up to lend money to Algeria now that this once socialist country has come round to the merits of neo-liberalism.

But whatever justifications are

made by Paris, the reduction of aid will come as bad news to its main beneficiaries, companies active in Franco-Algerian trade. French exporters are bound to compare Paris's stance unfavourably with the much more generous attitude adopted by Madrid, which concluded a financial agreement with Algeria for \$900 million at the beginning of this year.

Above all, it is difficult to see how the French government can justify a cutback in aid to Algeria when it recently showed such exceptional generosity to the two other Maghreb countries, Tunisia and Morocco.

When President Jacques Chirac visited Tunisia in October 1995, he announced that France's financial aid to Tunisia would virtually double from 594 million to 1 billion francs. At the beginning of 1996, Paris wiped 1 billion francs off Morocco's debt to France.

But the sharpest reaction to the latest news is bound to come from Algeria. While it is only to be expected that the Islamists will strive to make as much political capital as possible out of France's decision, the Algerian government will interpret it as the first hint that it is about to be "left in the lurch" politically by

Paris, its most loyal ally since the beginning of the latent civil war in Algeria.

Up to now, France has been unsparing in its assistance to its former colony. It has, for example, pleaded Algeria's case within the IMF — with some degree of success. The fund, currently headed by a Frenchman, Michel Camdessus, takes every opportunity of singing the praises of the "adjustment policy" pursued by Algeria since 1994. No doubt another such opportunity will come up when the IMF reviews Algeria's macroeconomic results in Washington on June 26.

On closer inspection, however, it emerges that Algeria's economic performance has been only partly successful. On the upside, the dinar is on the way to becoming a convertible currency; restrictions on foreign trade have been eased; the privatisation programme is slowly getting under way; the budget has more or less been balanced; the balance of trade has moved back into the black, with a \$1.2 billion surplus for the January-April period; and operation of the oil and gas industries, which represent Algeria's only serious export earnings, is now open to foreign companies.

The downside is that clouds are gathering on the horizon. The climate of violence has been discouraging inward investment, except in hydrocarbons.

Inflation is rearing its ugly head again, with a 13 per cent rate for the first five months of 1996, whereas price rises for the whole year were initially not expected to exceed 15 per cent; state-owned companies are going deeper into deficit (their losses have more than tripled over the past year, moving from \$810 million to \$2.54 billion); and unemployment continues to rise, now affecting 29 per cent of the working population as opposed to 25 per cent in 1994.

Both symbolic and symptomatic of this patchy economic performance has been growth: it rose to 3.5 per cent in 1995, and was 4 per cent more than that in the first quarter of 1996.

These fluctuating figures might suggest that the Algerian government deserves a medal for sound economic management. But they are in fact the result of an unexpectedly good performance by the farming industry; thanks to good weather, harvests were up by 20 per cent last year. Industrial output, on the other hand, fell yet again by more than 4 per cent during the first quarter of 1996.

(June 26 and 27)

Murder gives Brazilian sleaze scandal a nasty edge

Dominique Dhombres
In Rio de Janeiro

THE third-rate soap opera which for the past few years has been played out on the political stage in Alagoas, a backward state in northeastern Brazil, has just taken a new and grisly turn.

Paulo Cesar Farias, Brazil's most distinguished master briber in recent years and treasurer of the 1989 election campaign of Fernando Collor de Mello (who was president from 1990 to 1992), was found dead in his bed on the morning of June 23. Also in the bed was his partner, Suzana Marcolino. They had both been shot through the heart.

Farias was pushing 50. His friend, who like him was a native of Alagoas, was only 28. The former treasurer's five bodyguards found the two bodies at his beach house, 8km from Maceio, the state capital.

Experts at the Forensic Institute in Maceio conducted a post-mortem, which led them to conclude that Farias had been murdered at about 4am on June 23. The bullet had been fired at point-blank range. Marcolino is believed to have died the same way a little later. The 38 revolver used by the killer belonged to the young woman. Alagoas state police are currently working on the assumption that it was a "crime of passion", followed by a suicide.

Marcolino was in deep financial trouble and, ironically, had begun to blackmail the king of blackmailers himself. He regularly paid her large sums of money. The couple had had a blazing row on June 22. A week earlier, Marcolino had publicly threatened to kill Farias. There is evidence she may have been pregnant, even though Farias, who lost his wife two years ago, had had a vasectomy.

Not everyone is convinced by the official explanation of events. The justice minister, Nelson Jobim, has ordered a federal inquiry, which will be carried out in conjunction with the Alagoas police investigations.

Alagoas has remained a somewhat feudal state, where the Collor dynasty plays a leading role in politics and the media. Collor, living in exile in Miami, continues to control his home state. His family still owns the main local daily, *A Gazeta de Alagoas*. And he is in a position to exert pressure on the police investigations.

There is another possible version of events: that it was a case of double murder. According to that theory, the aim was to "burn the archives", as they say in Brazil. Farias kept locked away in his memory details of the countless murky cases in which he had been involved during his career, first as treasurer of Collor's election campaign, then as main supplier of illegal funds to Collor's wife and immediate circle once he had become president.

The so-called "PC Farias system", which relied on intimidation and extortion, raised tens, if not hundreds of millions of dollars until the president was forced to step down on charges of corruption in December 1992.

Farias' former treasurer did a bunk in 1993. After being on the run for several months he was arrested in Thailand, extradited and tried in Brazil for minor offences. He was given a four-year prison sentence for tax evasion, while facing further charges in 41 of the 600 corruption trials involving the former Collor administration.

At the time of his death Farias had been released on parole and was living under the protection of his bodyguards. His murder has the makings of a first-class whodunit.

(June 26)



PHOTOGRAPH, MARCO PESARESI

In focus . . . Di Pietro is finding it hard to stay out of the limelight

Ex-judge can't keep his 'clean hands' off

Marie-Claude Doampa
in Rome

IN THE month since it came to power, Romano Prodi's centre-left government has been keeping a low profile. The same cannot be said of its most celebrated minister, Antonio Di Pietro, former investigating judge and orchestrator of the "Clean Hands" anti-corruption campaign.

It must, of course, be hard for him to fall back into line after enjoying four years as Italy's most popular public figure. Di Pietro has tackled his job in the public works ministry — a hotbed of sleaze under the "First Republic" — with all the mettle, but also the lack of subtlety, of a bull charging into an arena. His first charges could hardly be said to have had the salutary effect he intended.

First there was his public row with the cautious Prodi; and the young mayor of Rome, Francesco

Rutelli, over preparations for the jubilee in 2000, which will entail a colossal public works programme.

Di Pietro, rightly suspecting that the jubilee might provide ideal conditions for favouritism and corruption, asked to be allowed to examine the books. His request was in large part turned down.

Then came another incident. When he realised that the handful of *carabinieri* posted to his ministry served virtually no purpose whatsoever, Di Pietro suggested they open an office in the ministry entrance, where they could register complaints lodged by members of the public.

His suggestion immediately came in for widespread criticism. It was suggested in some quarters that he was reintroducing the "denunciation boxes" that were used in the Venetian Republic.

The minister's latest, and especially hamfisted initiative has pro-

voked another chorus of protest. Continuing his anti-corruption campaign, Di Pietro, who now goes by the nickname of "transparency minister", suggested that an independent body should be set up to study and monitor "preventively" the earnings of all government employees. Anyone unable to justify his or her lifestyle would be requested to resign without waiting for the law to intervene.

His suggestion prompted some trade unions to talk of Italy "slithering towards a police state". And the centre-right parliamentary opposition had a field day, claiming that "Big Brother was not far away".

The harshest criticism came from President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro, who in a recent speech was scathingly critical of the "culture of suspicion". "It is justifiable to verify, but not to feed on suspicions," he said.

(June 25)

NOTTINGHAM TRIENT UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS, STATISTICS AND OPERATIONAL RESEARCH

Research Studentship

Commencing in October 1996 for three years and funded by a bursary of £6,000 p.a., the successful candidate will study for a PhD in the area of "Stochastic Flows Driven by Processes With Jumps". This will involve the study of dynamical systems interacting with noise and applications to geometry, analysis or quantum mechanics.

Candidates should have a strong background in modern mathematical techniques.

For informal enquiries, contact Dr D Applebaum on +44 115 9418188 ext 2196 (e-mail: d.a@maths.ntu.ac.uk).

Applicants should submit a full CV including two academic referees to Dr D Applebaum, Department of Mathematics, Statistics and Operational Research, The Nottingham Trent University, Burton Street, Nottingham NG1 4BU by 16 August 1996.

We are actively implementing equality of opportunity policies and seek people who share our commitment.

MBA GLASGOW
Commencing September 1996
CALEDONIAN UNIVERSITY

Contact:
Irene Urquhart/John Penlington,
Dept Of Management, Glasgow Caledonian University,
70 Cowcaddens Road Glasgow G4 0BA
Tel: +44 (0) 141-331-3173 Fax: +44 (0) 141-331-3269
Internet: I.Urquhart@gc.c.ac.uk.

SCOTLAND

DEGREE COURSES

Earn that vital degree qualification entirely by distance learning. Our Bachelor's, Master's or Doctorate degree programmes are directed at self-motivated men and women who have already moved some distance towards their own goals. There are no formal examinations or residency requirements. Full credits and exemptions are allocated for Academic, Life and Work experience. Enquiries to:-

KNIGHTSBRIDGE UNIVERSITY
Dept GW51, U.K. Administration Office, EMC Ltd,
4, Lisburne Square, Torquay, TQ1 2PT, ENGLAND
Fax: +44 (0)1803 201831

*Kingsbridge University does not offer U.K. authorized degrees

UNIVERSITY OF WALES SWANSEA
LECTURERS IN POLITICAL THEORY AND GOVERNMENT

Applications are invited for the vacancies of Lecturer Grade A or B, and Fixed Term Lecturer, Grade A, in the Department of Political Theory and Government. Expertise in International Theory would be particularly appropriate for the first post and the Department additionally seeks to strengthen its research and teaching in International Organisations, International Law and Foreign Policy Analysis. The Department has a 4A RAE rating and has a strong commitment to sustaining its extensive post graduate teaching.

The appointments will both date from 1 October 1996, with the fixed term appointment being for a fixed term period of two years, and will be on the following scales:

Grade A: £16,154 - £19,848 per annum
Grade B: £20,877 - £26,480 per annum
Together with USS benefits, if required

Further particulars and application forms (3 copies) may be obtained from the Personnel Department, University of Wales Swansea, Singleton Park, Swansea, SA9 8PP, to which office they should be returned by **Friday 18 July 1996**.

Email: personnel.mailbox@swansea.ac.uk
<http://www.uwan.ac.uk/personnel/HomePage.html>

merlin Medical Recruitment
Specialist recruitment in the Private medical sector, including medical emergency services, in a number of locations around the world.

Current countries of operation include Afghanistan, Chechnya, Rwanda, Siberia, Sierra Leone and Sri Lanka. We are seeking the following dynamic, committed individuals to join our overseas teams:

PROGRAMME COORDINATORS
Requirements:
• minimum 1 year overseas humanitarian and experience in administration/logistics
• proven management experience

MEDICAL COORDINATORS
Requirements:
• qualified medical practitioners
• proven management experience
• 1 years overseas emergency experience
• further qualification in Tropical Medicine or public health

DOCTORS, SURGEONS, NURSES, NUTRITIONISTS
• Start dates variable • Duration 6-12 months
• Comprehensive UK and overseas allowance

Please write with CV to Lucy Marby, MERLIN, 1a Rude Place, London W2
Fax: +44 171 243 1442
Registered Charity No. 1016007

Out of Print books English and U.S.
Found and sent worldwide. A helpful and efficient service with no search fees and no obligation. Write, fax or phone with your wants.

Caroline Hartley Booksearch
2 Hoole Street,
Chesham, Bucks HP81 0UR
Tel/Fax: +44 1296 558181
email: 101707.65@compuserve.com

TEFL DIPLOMA
Study TEFL, ESL or TESOL by Distance Learning. Also: Cert. TEFL, Dip. ESP (Business), Cert. TEFL (Management) Prospectus form.

International Learning Centre
12 Rutland Square,
Edinburgh, EH1 2BB
Tel/Fax 01259 720440
1366.826@compuserve.com

ST BARTHOLOMEW'S AND THE ROYAL LONDON SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND DENTISTRY
Chair of Paediatric Dentistry

Application are invited for the Chair of Paediatric Dentistry in the University of London at St Bartholomew's and the Royal London School of Medicine and Dentistry, of Queen Mary and Westfield College. Applicants must have a dental degree and appropriate postgraduate qualifications, and be registered with the General Dental Council.

The Professor will be expected to take a leading role in the active research programme of the Department and will be responsible for the undergraduate and postgraduate teaching programmes.

The successful candidate will be accorded Honorary Consultant status by the Royal Hospital Trust.

Further information and application forms (3 copies) may be obtained from Professor D.M. Williams, Dean of the Faculty of Clinical Dentistry, St Bartholomew's and the Royal London School of Medicine and Dentistry, Turner Street, London E1 2AD. E-mail: d.m.williams@mds.qmw.ac.uk, Tel 0171 377 7057, Fax 0171 377 7022.

For further information and an Application Form please contact our 24 hour recruitment line on 0171-975 6171 quoting Reference 98601. Your application is to be returned by 26 July 1996 and should be addressed to the Personnel Officer, Queen Mary and Westfield College, Mile End Road, London E1 4NS.

WORKING TOWARDS EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

Half-time Lecturer
in Education and International Development

Required to develop and teach courses on the planning, management and evaluation of projects and undertake commissioned research and consultancy in the area sometimes abroad. Applicants will need a higher degree in education planning or a related field and professional experience of education projects in one of Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Latin America or the Pacific. Teaching experience and publications in education planning or management or evaluation also required.

Salary will be on the Lecturer scale A/B salary scale, pro-rata of £15,154-£20,450, plus pro-rata of £2,134 London Allowance.

Appointment for three years, November 1996 start preferred.

For an application form and further details please ring 0171-012 6159 (24 hour message) quoting reference I/E1/2 or e-mail personnel@ioe.ac.uk. Completed application forms to be returned to the Personnel Department, Institute of Education, University of London, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1H 0AL by 20th August 1996.

Pursuing Excellence in Education

Joanna Moorehead
meets Sister Wendy Beckett, TV art critic and Norfolk hermit

Habitual change

HOW MUCH ambition does it take to become an internationally-recognised celebrity, with a major TV series, a host of fans and the kind of status that guarantees you the best rooms and tables wherever you go? None at all, according to Sister Wendy Beckett, whose new 10-part TV series—*Sister Wendy's Story Of Painting*—began this week on BBC television.

Filming took her to New York, where she was mobbed in the street by autograph-hunters; Philadelphia, where the Museum of Art expressed an interest in selling Sister Wendy dolls; and Rome, where the Pope told her he was one of her fans. But give Sister Wendy the choice, she insists, and she'd be off the set before you could say Leonardo da Vinci, back to her day job as a silent and solitary hermit.

As millions tuned in to her BBC1 debut, 67-year-old Sister Wendy was back to her solitary life, in her caravan parked in the garden of a Carmelite convent in Quidenham, Norfolk.

She wasn't watching the programme because she doesn't own a TV set, and she won't be receiving a flood of congratulatory telephone calls when the show goes off air because she never goes near the phone. Messages are relayed via Sister Anne-Marie ("An absolute sweetie") who brings her a list of callers once a day.

Despite her habit, Sister Wendy isn't exactly an orthodox nun and her life in Norfolk is more or less self-invented, though obviously inspired by a long tradition of Christian hermits. She became a nun at 16 but she wasn't a Carmelite. She entered the Notre Dame teaching order, was sent to Oxford (where she received a congratulatory first) and then returned to South Africa, where she had lived as a child, to teach in Orange Free State.

But teaching did not, in the long term, suit the then Sister Michael, and in 1970 she got permission from Rome to leave her order and become a "Consecrated Virgin". This odd-sounding status is often conferred on women who are associated with enclosed convents but are not actually members of the community.

Strictly speaking, there is no need for Sister Wendy to wear a habit. The Notre Dame nuns abandoned the practice long ago and other consecrated virgins wear ordinary clothes. Some of her fellow nuns find the fact that Sister Wendy appears on TV in hers slightly irksome.

"She looks like something from Nuns On The Run," says one. "It obviously gives the impression that she's what nuns look like, but of course she isn't. We're all in civvies these days."

Her preference for the habit has almost certainly helped plant her in the public imagination and has been a godsend for the TV crew — "It's great for continuity," says David Willcock, her producer. And it's that slightly titillating combination of watching a nun hold forth on matters sexual that, some would say, ac-



Sister Wendy: her 'real life' is silent PHOTOGRAPH: JANE BOWEN

FEATURES 23

Charter for the part-timer

A blow has been struck for all women in Britain who want to work and care for children, reports **Markie Robson-Scott**

IT WAS an eye-catching headline in *Essentials*, an IPC magazine: "People think their company won't let them go part-time, but if you don't ask, you'll never know." Sarah Rolls, an advertorial manager with IPC, asked after she'd had her second baby and soon found out. When the company refused to consider her request to job-share, she did so "at their peril", says Alan Lakin, chief legal adviser to the Equal Opportunities Commission.

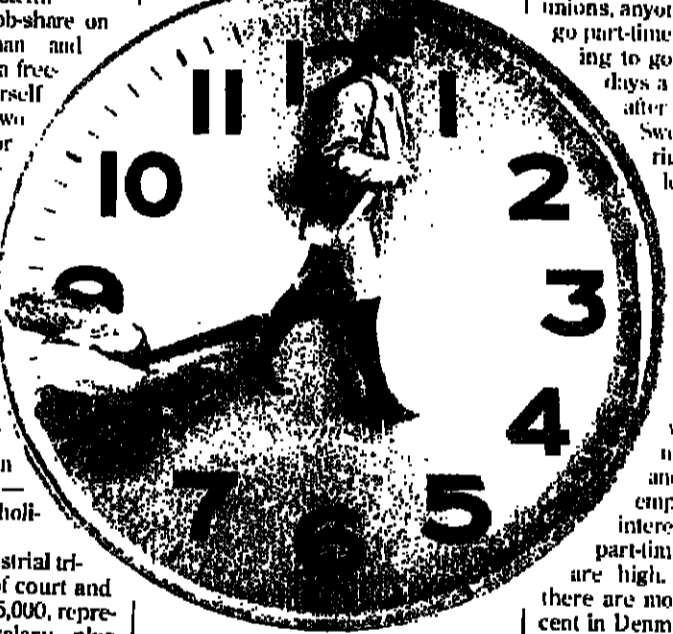
Rolls, aged 35, had been with the company for six years. "IPC said it was a unique job," she says, "that clients would find it unworkable, that it would be hard to change the paperwork — all sorts of lame excuses. In my job, you're out of the office a lot anyway and clients find it hard to get hold of you, so you're used to leaving good notes and having a good operating system."

She had hoped to job-share on *Essentials* and *Woman and Home* magazine, with a freelance colleague, herself now redundant; the two had worked closely for years on four magazines. "We planned to continue to manage our own projects if I set something up, I'd deal with that client, though my job-sharer would have been able to take over as well. The company would have given us a year round — we'd have worked out half-day cover."

On the eve of an industrial tribunal, IPC settled out of court and awarded Sarah Rolls £35,000, representing two years' salary, plus £5,000 for injury to feelings. "This case won't open the floodgates," Lakin says, "because most people still need to work full-time, but each case that succeeds is important because it gives credence to the issue of job-sharing and boosts confidence in women in similar positions who are wondering what to do."

Sarah Rolls is not the first to succeed; among recent cases, Susan Givern, a clerical worker at Scottish Power in Glasgow, was awarded the same amount when a tribunal ruled that there was no reason why her work couldn't be carried out as a job-share; a clerk/typist took Leeds City Council to tribunal for sex discrimination, and won, after it had refused to let her job-share in spite of its policy of allowing employees to return to work part-time after maternity leave; and Violet Milligan, an occupational therapist who had to resign after her request to job-share was refused, also won her case against the Eastern Health and Social Services Board in Northern Ireland.

So is the British workplace about to be transformed into a caring, sharing paradise? "There is no legal entitlement for someone in Sarah Rolls's position to be given part-time work," Lakin points out. However, since a German case known as *Weber von Hartz v Bilka Kaufhaus* set a precedent in the European



courts, the point that should strike fear into an employer's heart is the unwieldy-sounding test of justifiability, combined with Indirect Sex Discrimination in the Sex Discrimination Act, under which Rolls brought her claim.

Indirect sex discrimination occurs when a difference in treatment, although not aimed at depriving members of one particular sex of their rights, disproportionately affects one sex more than another. IPC, Lakin says, were imposing on men and women alike a condition to continue in full-time employment, and this is "an equal rule with an unequal effect, because women continue to have major responsibility for childcare". So IPC were practising indirect sex discrimination because Sarah Rolls was unable to return to work full-time without detriment to herself. "My first son was very disturbed after I'd gone back to work full-time and I felt guilty and didn't want to put the second one through the same thing."

Since the German case, the burden of proof has shifted to the employer to prove that full-time work is a necessity and, Lakin says, "one can only speculate that IPC decided they weren't going to succeed — especially taking the *Essentials* article into account."

His advice to employers is to "consider such requests seriously and comply with them if they can. Many companies still have a knee-jerk reaction and think it's OK if you're at the check-out at Sainsbury's but not for a manager."

Possible but not probable: the Institute of Management's new report, to be published in September, shows that only 18 per cent of British managers work part-time, compared with 75 per cent of clerical staff and 42 per cent of administrative workers. Marks & Spencer, which now classifies its staff as permanent or temporary rather than full- or part-time (because no one works a seven-day week) has three-quarters of its general staff working part-time but only 10 per cent of management... The firm does, however, have six job-shares, in "quite senior positions".

Credit Suisse investment management also believes the relationship between client and manager would be damaged. "It's far too personal a thing and it would be hopeless if it wasn't clear who was running things? Well, it would be clear: the portfolios would be shared between two people. "I suppose you can make anything work if you put in enough effort. It would be of limited value to the firm," a company spokesman says.

Charlie Monkman, one of four joint co-ordinators (job-sharing, of course) at New Ways to Work, an educational charity pioneering new working patterns, believes that attitudes are changing — "Sarah Rolls would have lost her case eight years ago" — and that there is now such a body of experience showing that job-sharing is feasible that the employers' position is less tenable. However, he feels that in some cases it can't work. "Where there's a need for affirmative leadership, for example. And perhaps with lawyers and accountants, where the client wants the same person there all the time."

What about the rest of Europe? Job-sharing is surprisingly rare, but this is often because state provision for childcare is generous and part-timers there have more statutory rights than those in Britain. In Holland, under the Collective Agreement between employers and trade unions, anyone has the legal right to go part-time. Some men are choosing to go from full-time to four days a week in order to look after their children. In Sweden, a mother has the right to take maternity leave until her child is 18 months old and then to work 75 per cent of her previous hours until the child is eight.

There is a distinct pattern in southern Europe, there tend to be few part-time workers because businesses are often small and family-run. In Italy, employers have shown no interest because the cost of part-time social contributions are high. In northern Europe there are more part-timers: 21 per cent in Denmark and 36 per cent in the Netherlands, compared with 21 in Britain.

In the US, job-sharing is fairly rare: "Companies would rather hire consultants on an hourly rate and avoid paying health benefits," says one foreign news editor at Associated Press in New York, who successfully job-shared for years with another mother, both having returned from maternity leave. Interestingly, when a man applied for a job-share there because he wanted spare time in which to write a novel, he was turned down because "the head of department wanted to keep job-shares for women with families".

Is this sex discrimination? Alan Lakin says not. "If a company lets a woman job-share in order to spend more time with her children, and a man comes along and says he wants to go part-time for other reasons, then it wouldn't be considered detrimental to him to work full-time."

Whether for reasons of childcare or creativity, many job-sharers of part-timers — myself included — feel going back to a five-day week would be unbearable.

"Would Sarah Rolls like to return to full-time work? "When you've had a career, it's nice to keep that side of your life ticking over. But I can't imagine going back until my children are older. And I can't imagine going back into magazines," she says.

ILLUSTRATION: ROGER YOUNG

CLASSIFIED

CAR HIRE

The Car Hire Specialists
MARTINS
Salford
fax +44 1256 843005
phone +44 1256 24448
Quality Car Hire

NEVER HIRE A CAR UNTIL YOU HAVE CHECKED KENDALL'S PRICES
Kendall's Car Hire
KENDALL CARS
Quality Car Hire

MARTINS The Car Hire Specialists
Salford
phone +44 1256 843005
phone +44 1256 24448
Quality Car Hire

CAR RENTAL
Our rates are inclusive of VAT, C.I.W., Unlimited Mileage and full AA membership and great service at all our branches.

WE RENT: 24HOURS

HAT	99.00	11.00
FORD FOCUS	119.00	17.00
SEAT MIRA	131.00	19.00
FORD ESCORT	147.00	21.00
FORD MONDO	161.00	23.00
FORD MONDO	161.00	23.00
AUTOMATICS	12.00	26.00

HEATHROW AIRPORT/GATWICK THE VILLAGE GARAGE, HIGH STREET, BIRKENHEAD, MERseys. R17 0PA
TEL: PHONE: 00 44 1342 832211 FAX: 00 44 1342 832211

SERVICES

UK BOOK PUBLISHER
We are a publisher of all categories, including academic and specialist publications at the highest standards.
MERLIN BOOKS LTD (P.W.)
Brentwood, Essex SS16 5EA England
Tel: +44(0)1274 816430
Fax: +44(0)1274 812117

ACCESS CAR HIRE U.K. Tel: +44 (0) 1734 608203 Fax: +44 (0) 1734 608203
Homebase Garage Ltd (Dept X)
Bath Road, Reading, Berkshire RG30 2HS

SPECIAL OFFERS!!
AVAILABLE ON MOST MODELS
DURING APRIL & MAY
AIRPORT TERMINAL MEET & GREET SERVICE
PLEASE WRITE PHONE OR FAX FOR DETAILS
EXAMPLE
ESCORT 1.6 LXI for 2 WEEKS
£280.00 Fully inclusive of comprehensive insurance
CDW, delivery/collection to Heathrow, Gatwick or London; unlimited mileage.

NEW CARS: OLD PRICES
HEATHROW/GATWICK

ROBERT WHITLEY CAR HIRE
HEATHROW - GATWICK
CAR HIRE FROM £99 PER WEEK
Includes VAT, C.I.W., unlimited mileage, AA membership and great service at all our branches.

Thrifty Car Rental

PRICES FROM £99 PER WEEK
(Includes VAT & VED)

■ LOW LOW PRICES ■ GREAT SERVICE FROM A WORLDWIDE COMPANY ■ FULLY INCLUSIVE RATES ■ WIDE RANGE OF VEHICLES ■ OVER 60 LOCATIONS NATIONWIDE ■ CALL, WRITE OR FAX TO OUR CENTRAL RESERVATIONS

TELEPHONE 01494 442 110 FACSIMILE 01494 474 732

THRIFTY CAR RENTAL, THE OLD GLOUCESTER HOUSE, 100 HIGH STREET, WIMBORNE, DORSET BH20 1JG

PAMBER CAR HIRE U.K. Telephone: +44 (0) 1734 608203 Fax: +44 (0) 1734 608203
62, HEATHROW ROAD, WIMBORNE, DORSET BH20 1JG Tel: +44 (0) 1734 608203

SEND PHONE OR FAX FOR A RECEIPT. TODAY FOR FULL DETAILS WE PLEDGE YOUR FLEET AND YOU CONTINUE YOUR JOURNEY WITHOUT DELAYS.

A	ROVER METRO	£ 90	F	FORD SIERRA 1.6	£188
B	ROVER PANDA	£105	G	FORD SIERRA 1.6	£188
C	ROVER ESCORT 1.4	£105	H	ROVER MONDO 1.6	£180
D	ROVER 214	£130	I	ROVER MONDO 1.6	£180
E	ROVER ESCORT 1.3L	£130	J	ROVER MONDO 1.6	£180
F	ROVER ESCORT 1.3L	£130	K	ROVER MONDO 1.6	£180
G	ROVER ESCORT 1.3L	£130	L	ROVER MONDO 1.6	£180
H	ROVER ESCORT 1.3L	£130	M	ROVER MONDO 1.6	£180
I	ROVER ESCORT 1.3L	£130	N	ROVER MONDO 1.6	£180
J	ROVER ESCORT 1.3L	£130	O	ROVER MONDO 1.6	£180
K	ROVER ESCORT 1.3L	£130	P	ROVER MONDO 1.6	£180
L	ROVER ESCORT 1.3L	£130	Q	ROVER MONDO 1.6	£180
M	ROVER ESCORT 1.3L	£130	R	ROVER MONDO 1.6	£180
N	ROVER ESCORT 1.3L	£130	S	ROVER MONDO 1.6	£180
O	ROVER ESCORT 1.3L	£130	T	ROVER MONDO 1.6	£180
P	ROVER ESCORT 1.3L	£130	U	ROVER MONDO 1.6	£180
Q	ROVER ESCORT 1.3L	£130	V	ROVER MONDO 1.6	£180
R	ROVER ESCORT 1.3L	£130	W	ROVER MONDO 1.6	£180
S	ROVER ESCORT 1.3L	£130	X	ROVER MONDO 1.6	£180
T	ROVER ESCORT 1.3L	£130	Y	ROVER MONDO 1.6	£180
U	ROVER ESCORT 1.3L	£130	Z	ROVER MONDO 1.6	£180

WHILE THIS LISTING IS CURRENT, WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO CHANGE OUR OFFER WITHOUT NOTICE. FULL RATES AND BOOKING CONDITIONS APPLY. FULL DETAILS ON WHICH OUR VEHICLES, FULL RATES AND BOOKING CONDITIONS APPLY. FULL DETAILS ON WHICH OUR VEHICLES, FULL RATES AND BOOKING CONDITIONS APPLY.

Throwing the book at the Internet

Are books on the way out or is the information superhighway just a load of hype? **Steve James** puts them to the test

BY THE END of the century the voter-friendly, information superhighway will contain more words than the Library of Congress. With more than 30 million pages of text already available in cyberspace, the Internet has been dubbed the greatest educational resource ever. It's the new electronic democracy.

The computer frontiersmen of the British new left and new American right have been donning their Marshall McLuhan hats and riding into town. For an increasing number of them, the temptation is to cast the so-called superhighway in the role of information cash-crop, to cultivate it in the belief that traditional civic institutions and services will wither on the vine. Downsize traditional provision from the high street library, the theory runs, and let individuals fill the gap by purchasing information from the net.

Many agree that it's time to replace books with fully electronic libraries. "It's going to have to happen sooner or later, so the best thing is to get on with it, figure out the pitfalls and see how it will work," says Sean Geer, managing editor of Wired magazine.

Society used to equate the growth of libraries with the growth of civilisation — from the baked clay tablets at Nineveh, the two great libraries at Alexandria, to the 4,769 public libraries established in Britain since 1850. Despite falling attendance, Britons still use libraries heavily: six out of 10 people in England and Wales use a public library at least once a year. Of 132 million volumes on the shelves, 33.5 million are on loan at any one time.

But the statistics for funding are bleak — book funds for inner London down 39 per cent over the past 10 years, 16 per cent fewer librarians, £612 million needed for building.

Most library users are middle-class voters with an interest in the health of the library service; but they also buy into a hi-tech future. If politicians underfund high street libraries but launch half-cocked into cyberspace, who pays the price? Compare the 25p of tax spent on libraries per head of population with the £1,000 or more it costs to buy a multimedia PC and modem. Then add the cost of a copy of Windows 3.1 or Windows 95, plus phone calls and up to £10 per month for an Internet subscriber, and the superhighway weighs in as the far more expensive option.

Politicians have started uttering platitudes about the value of the Internet to the public. But there is a difficulty in trying to equate computer-power with citizenry: the content of the Internet has no respect for time or space — or social and critical niceties. A library does not simply dematerialise overnight; sites on the Internet often disappear. And if the superhighway could ever be tamed it won't be elected representatives deciding what it publishes or to what standards.

To understand why, first appreciate just how unintelligent and un-mysterious a place the Internet actually is. It has no central brain, it has no secret ingredient. It's simply numerous computers talking with

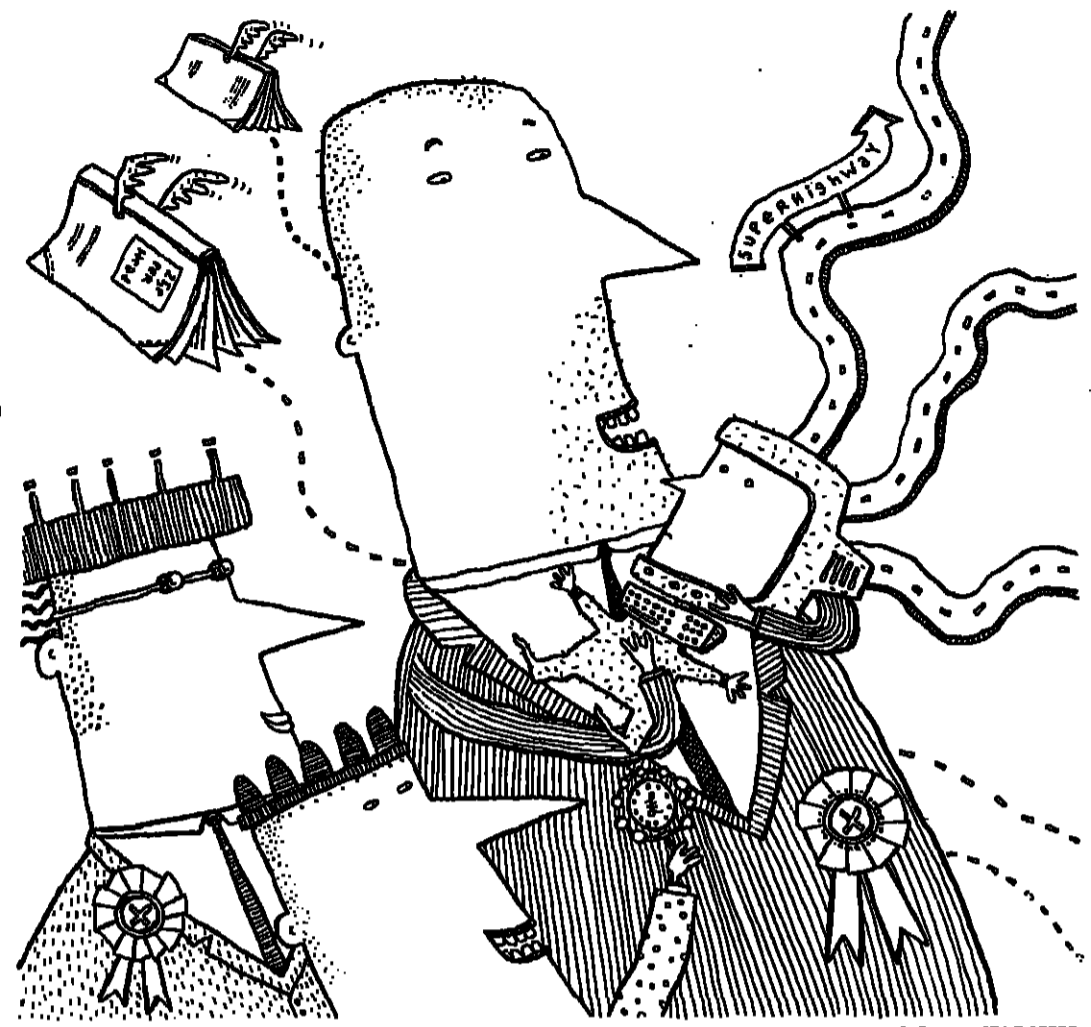


ILLUSTRATION: SPIKE GERRELL

each other. Any page that's published on the Internet is located not in a void but on a host computer. Magical it isn't; nor is it virtual.

The easiest route into the Internet is through the World Wide Web, which is millions of graphic pages called sites that are connected through hypertext links (these are the bits of highlighted text which, when pressed, let you jump to another page).

There's no problem if you know the address of a site — just dial its URL (Uniform Resource Locator), a cross between a post code and the ISBN number you'll find on the back of a book. Suppose, however, you're researching blind. You're no more likely to realise that the URL for First Aid Online is <http://www.segao.com> than you are to know that on the shelves of a high street library a book about the Corn Laws is filed under code History 941.081. In this case you consult a search engine — the Internet's version of a librarian. You feed it key words, then the search engine does the finding — allegedly.

This is where the fun starts. To discover how effective this process really is, I'm going to compare how good the Internet is at sourcing reference material with a conventional library. There are several pieces of information I'm looking for. Against the clock I try to locate them on the

Internet and in a medium-sized urban library in north London.

I want to know a) how much more it costs to produce a supposedly BSE-free, organically-reared cow than one produced by conventional means; b) the date of the Beveridge Report on the welfare state; c) what happened when the Tory party fragmented over the Corn Laws.

I told the engine supplied by my net service provider to search under Corn Laws. With a 72 per cent match rating, top of the list of finds was "Breast implant firm halts compensation claim". Another engine came up with "Dow Corning bankruptcy filing impedes silicone implant cases". It was the same story but at least I knew what was happening: the search engines were matching Corn Laws with news stories from May 1995 on Dow Corning, an American manufacturer of silicone breasts.

TIME to think laterally, with British political history as the new parameter. Again the results were wildly unpredictable. Some engines gave a list of recent press comments by contemporary British politicians, others found abstracts on the history of British Columbia — and, yes, some discovered sites about British history. That much, at least, was encouraging. All I had to do now was to start

opening the pages and work my way through any hotlinks until I found the answer.

The trawl lasted two hours. I'd tracked down a suitable document and was within a hair's breadth of getting the goods — or so I still believe — only to discover that the journal I wanted on British political history of the 1800s wasn't on an on-line service at all but a subscription page for a paper-based academic magazine.

The following day I tried a new engine. It led me straight to a succinct description of the Corn Laws. If only this had happened earlier.

But that's a good illustration of just how hit-and-miss the Internet can be. The search relating to cattle farming proved equally frustrating for different reasons with 6,000 entries under "organic farming" to scroll through. And while "organic farming costs" should have narrowed the odds it created exactly the same list. Looking under BSE produced no joy either. In one instance you popped a long, long list of uninformative briefings on mad cow disease — while another engine interpreted the acronym as (yet another) mammiform red herring) Breast Self-Examination.

I had successfully researched only one fact in four and meanwhile the Internet had stolen five hours of my life and plundered £4 from me in phone calls. Time to step out for air.

As well as a good range of books, Kentish Town library hires music CDs for 60p (with 10 or more tracks per disc, a snip compared with the seven minutes and 9p spent downloading a 15-second sound sample from an Internet jukebox). It has a file containing the last two weeks newspapers, as well as magazines.

Less than an hour later I'd completed my research. Some of the books weren't located where they were meant to be, but suitable alternatives were always at hand. And much of the content was surprisingly up-to-date.

So full-ish marks for the local library and its efficiency and only *deus points* for the net — but why? Perhaps the real strength of the Internet lies in people finding people, not finding information, as Brewster Kahle, the founder of Wide Area Information Services, recently wrote in Wired: "Information retrieval is not about finding how much tannin there is in an apple. It's about letting everyone publish."

The term "classification in crisis" is overused among the library community, but as the sum of human knowledge expands so do the gaps in categorising it. Humans make mistakes when deciding which information is relevant to a particular inquiry. Attempting to get a computer to work it out can be nigh-on impossible.

AS THE Web booms so does the growth in processing power. The prospect of increased competition, quicker spider programs that trawl the Internet in search of new sites, and more sophisticated indexing programs, lead both Sean Geer from Wired and Guy Daines from the Library Association to believe that the Internet will become more efficient and cheaper to operate.

"Information can make companies very rich," explains Geer, "so most work very hard to improve the quality of it, and as larger businesses continue to enter the market you'll see prices drop and the standards raised."

Daines agrees: "After a while the problem becomes not one of capital investment but of revenue implications. If you buy a book it's a physical object and can be used by X number of people. Far more worrying is how we'd keep track of charges for the Internet. What would have to happen is that consortiums of public libraries would form to purchase their information needs."

This is the real dilemma for the politicians: there is no centre or organisation to the Internet. Information capital is like financial capital: vast, global and subject only to its markets. It is possible for governments to buy stakes in the content of the Internet but, as Geer points out, the policy shift would be enormous and so would the costs.

The creation of the global village will not mean universally rising standards. That can only be addressed on a local level — by teachers, by parents who encourage learning, by responsive and highly-trained keepers of public knowledge.

The potential of the Internet is vast — but perhaps it is time for a moment to put aside digital dreams and think old-fashioned thoughts of more books on shelves. If only to lift learning out from between an underfunded rock and a technical hard place. And if only to realise that when the lure of the superhighway becomes irresistible, we must travel on it prepared. Otherwise, we stand, at the roadside and gaze in dumb reverence upon the clothes of the new wave emperor.

Tennis Wimbledon Championship

Bit-part players take centre stage

Stephen Blarney

WHEN Todd Martin, one of the most phlegmatic players on the men's circuit, describes something as "interesting", one can be pretty sure that all hell has broken loose.

Martin, the last surviving seed in the bottom half of the men's draw, eased his 6ft 6in frame into an uncomfortable-looking chair last Saturday and surmised it had indeed been "an interesting week" and that it was "nice to see a few new names".

Nobody disputed Martin's accuracy. Of the 16 original men's seeds only five started the second week at the All England Club. The modern era has never known such carnage.

The seeding committee reserve the right to juggle with world rankings. In Melbourne, Paris and New York the computer rules; Wimbledon adds the human touch.

Understandably the loss of Andre Agassi, Yevgeny Kafelnikov, Michael Chang, Jim Courier et al has led to criticism. Germany's Michael Stich, never short of an opinion, led the attack.

Stich's complaint is that too many of the heavy servers have ended up in the top half of the draw. True, it may be regarded as unfortunate that only one from Pete Sampras, Goran Ivanisevic and Stich himself can make the final but the seeding committee can hardly be blamed for the loss of Becker through injury or the vagaries of the draw.

"It's a fluke what happened to Boris," said Martin. "And you can't say that, since Agassi doesn't serve as big as Goran, they should swap places in the draw."

Sampras, whose response to such matters is as controlled and spare as much of his play, replied to the controversy by saying nothing should be changed. "It's just the way it has happened — in the bottom half of the draw the guys just haven't come through, so what can you do?"

The All England Club is no more likely to succumb to computer power than it is to rip up the grass. And the arguments about both will doubtless continue forever and a day.

Sampras rarely worries about what is going on around him in the draw, although even he was aware of the hold football had last week. "It seemed like Wimbledon had taken a back seat," it had. And, although the thought of a Sampras-Martin final hardly sets the blood singing, they locked into a colossal five-set third-round match in the French Open.

Sampras has had no such energy-sapping encounters so far; he benefits hugely from the serve-oriented tennis on grass, with its usually short and sharp rallies.

Meanwhile Britain's Tim Henman not only played well during week one but also conducted himself of the court with a purposeful rationality. Euro 96 shielded him from a full-blown media onslaught but further progress is sure to leave him carrying the burden of a nation's expectations.

The computer that adjusts women's rankings on tournament results rarely overheats. Katarina Studenikova's second-round victory over Monica Seles provided the biggest glitch of the first week. The 23-year-old Slovak won 7-5, 5-7, 6-4 but a fit and match-honed Seles would have galloped through this



Premature exit... Boris Becker redress after injuring his right wrist in the match with Neville Godwin

match. Lack of tennis caught up with her as it did Andre Agassi, albeit sooner than most had expected.

The early defeat of Seles, coupled with last Saturday's defeat of the No 5 seed, Germany's Anke Huber, seems to have given Arantxa Sanchez Vicario a turbulence-free flight to the final.

Not so long ago, when Steffi Graf was disconcerted by the jailing of her father for income tax evasion, it was feared that her reign was over. Her quarter-final defeat in the Italian Open, where her mind was clearly miles away from her match

against Martin Hingis, emphasised that concern.

Then came her 19th Grand Slam victory in the French Open and predictions of her imminent decline looked foolish. Graf has no intention of becoming history yet and her first three matches here have done nothing to diminish the impression that a seventh Wimbledon title is well within her grasp. However, she does have a slight problem with her left knee and wore a small sticking plaster against Nicole Pietrangeli. "It takes a little bit of pressure away from the tendon."

With Jean Alesi and Gerhard Berger finishing third and fourth, it was a 1-2-3-4 grand slam for Renault's latest specification RS18 engine, which was being used for the first time at this race. It was also a salutary reminder of the huge performance benefit those teams stand to lose at the end of next season when the French company withdraws from Formula One.

Things could hardly have been worse for Ferrari. Even before Schumacher's abrupt departure the team had been in trouble during qualifying when Eddie Irvine's car was found to have a "dimensional irregularity" — one of the deflector panels on the bodywork was higher than allowed. Irvine had his qualifying times disallowed and had to start from 22nd and last place on the grid rather than his original tenth place.

Schumacher did not mince his words. "At first I was very angry," he said. "Angry because, in a few seconds, I saw all the hard work I have done together with the team go up in smoke. But it is at times like this that you must control your emotions and stay cool and rational."

The fact that we would have reliability problems is something I was aware of from the moment I started working for Ferrari. However, I thought we would have them at the start of the season, rather than after a period of good reliability."

Completing the top six were the McLaren-Mercedes of Mika Hakkinen and David Coulthard. Hakkinen ran strongly in third place ahead of Villeneuve in the early stages but dropped back after losing first and second gear just before halfway.

Shiv Sharma is on holiday

Motor Racing

Hill profits from Ferrari's misfortune

Alan Henry at Magny-Cours

DAMON HILL was delivered victory in the French Grand Prix on a plate on Sunday when Michael Schumacher's Ferrari, which had qualified on pole position, suffered major engine failure as it was leading the pack round the final formation lap to the starting grid.

It was Hill's sixth win of the season, and it took him 25 points clear in the world championship over his Williams teammate Jacques Villeneuve, who was runner-up, as he prepares for an emotional home grand prix at Silverstone on July 14.

"I was worried that Michael's engine was going to blow up in a big way and leave a huge oil slick," said Hill, "so I had to back off. His car was spraying a lot of oil out on to the track and also on to my visor. It was pretty unexpected, really, but of course it made the race a whole lot easier for me at the start."

With his key championship rival falling away, Hill's Williams catered to a commanding eight-second victory over his Canadian team-mate — who drove a determined race wearing a surgical neck support, needed after he walked away from a spectacular 135mph accident during Saturday's qualifying session.

With Jean Alesi and Gerhard Berger finishing third and fourth, it was a 1-2-3-4 grand slam for Renault's latest specification RS18 engine, which was being used for the first time at this race. It was also a salutary reminder of the huge performance benefit those teams stand to lose at the end of next season when the French company withdraws from Formula One.

Things could hardly have been worse for Ferrari. Even before Schumacher's abrupt departure the team had been in trouble during qualifying when Eddie Irvine's car was found to have a "dimensional irregularity" — one of the deflector panels on the bodywork was higher than allowed. Irvine had his qualifying times disallowed and had to start from 22nd and last place on the grid rather than his original tenth place.

Schumacher did not mince his words. "At first I was very angry," he said. "Angry because, in a few seconds, I saw all the hard work I have done together with the team go up in smoke. But it is at times like this that you must control your emotions and stay cool and rational."

The fact that we would have reliability problems is something I was aware of from the moment I started working for Ferrari. However, I thought we would have them at the start of the season, rather than after a period of good reliability."

Completing the top six were the McLaren-Mercedes of Mika Hakkinen and David Coulthard. Hakkinen ran strongly in third place ahead of Villeneuve in the early stages but dropped back after losing first and second gear just before halfway.

ONE Englishman will have cause to thank German team manager Berti Vogts after placing a £122 accumulator bet with the bookmaker William Hill. Having been proved right with his other predictions, he was set to win £201,069 if the Germans carried off the trophy at Wembley. If he finances another flutter, one firm is already offering odds of 7-1 on Vogts's squad taking the World Cup in Paris in two years' time.

Sports Diary Mike Kiely

Christie raring to go

LINFORD CHRISTIE'S "will-he-won't-he" game with the media over whether he would defend his 100m title in Atlanta finally ended when the 36-year-old Londoner confirmed his decision to take on the world's fastest men.

Christie will also compete in the 200m and sprint relay, and appeared relaxed, telling the assembled press: "I don't think I will be around to run in 2000, so I might as well grab this opportunity now."

Another great Olympian and holder of eight gold medals, sprinter Carl Lewis (below right), has failed to make the line-up for the United States 4 x 100 metres relay team after finishing last in the 100m at the US Olympic trials.

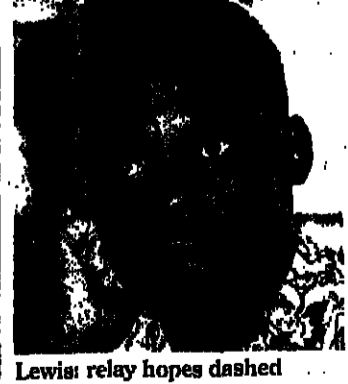
Unless there is an injury to one of the four athletes selected — Dennis Mitchell, Michael Marsh, Jon Drummond and Leroy Burrell — Lewis will be left with only the long jump to aim for, denying him the chance to equal the record of 10 gold medals achieved by Ray Ewry.

Meanwhile, Britain's Diane Modahl successfully fought off a High Court attempt by the British Athletic Federation to block the damages action she has launched against the organisation after being cleared of drug-taking allegations.

THE climax of Euro 96 had a familiar ring to it... another major tournament, another case of Deutschland über alles. There was a feeling of *deja vu* about England's fate as well, Terry Venables becoming the second coach of the national side to see his team denied a final appearance after losing a penalty shoot-out to Germany. In contrast to Bobby Robson's side in Turin in 1990, it was Tel's boys who took the lead, thanks to an Alan Shearer header in the third minute. However, the advantage was relinquished inside 15 minutes, Stefan Kuntz converting a cross from Thomas Helmer. Both sides missed

chances to finish the game from open play and the spot kick competition finished 6-5 after Gareth Southgate saw his effort saved by Andreas Köpcke. In the other semi, France also lost on penalties, Reynaud Pedros falling from the spot to give the Czechs victory.

THE ground staff at Edgbaston are expected to find themselves on a sticky wicket this week at a meeting of the Test & County Cricket Board's pitches sub-committee after complaints about the state of the turf, most recently after last month's first Test against India. Warwickshire County Cricket club has reportedly received recommendations from the TCCB's inspector of pitches, Harry Brind, and although there is no question at this stage of Edgbaston losing its status as a Test venue, head groundsman Steve Rouse and chairman of the house-and-ground committee Mike Hurst may face some fierce deliveries from irate TCCB members.



Lewis relay hopes dashed

ENGLAND'S team for the third and final Test against India at Trent Bridge is likely to see only one major change from Lord's, with left-arm spinner Min Patel coming in for Peter Martin. The full team is: Atherton (cap), Stewart, Hussain, Thorpe, Hick, Irani, Russell, Lewis, Cork, Mulleary, Patel, Eatham, Salisbury.